Central VOICE

FREE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

Party like a rock star

Rolling Out "Red Rover" Carpet

WoofStock

Grab the dogs, your favorite tie-dye and love beads and get your groove on at Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance's 4th Annual WoofStock Festival Sunday, Sept. 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. along Harrisburg's Riverfront Park. Go-Go boots and bouffant hair-dos not required!

WoofStock is a canine extravaganza focusing on paws, tails and rock n' roll. Last year more than 100 vendors attended this canine love in. Riverfront Park will be "howling!" Meet adoptable animals from rescues and shelters. Take part in doggie demos hosted by OTCH, and ice cream socials hosted by The Dogs Den and Brookline Lab. Visit the CPAA raffle tables and take a chance on winning an awesome basket of goodies.

Get your groove on listening to the awesome sounds of Loose Canon Band, Julie Schreiber Band,Tropical Soul ,Sky Dog, The Cruise Control Duo- Erin Cruise & Ken, Jo Braithwaite, Julie Moffitt, Pat Cusick, Brooks West, Maria Wilson, Jimbo Sage, Karen Dalton, CH Lehr, and more.

Doggies will be dressing to the K-9 for The Funkytown Pet Costume Contest and homeless rescued animals will be strutting their stuff at the Rescue Me Rockin' Mutt Strut with Valerie Prichett, ABC 27 anchor, announcing each and every one. Meet the guys from Rescue Ink, a NY group of tattooed tough talkers with a soft spot for feral kitties and abandoned puppies.

Also, low cost pet vaccines& micro-chipping, Extreme Doggie Makeover/K-9 Edition for some lucky homeless rescued dogs, free nail clippings, animal friendly merchants, yummy food, and more at this ear-scratching, tail waggin' love fest. Please support CPAA and member organizations by being a part of this doggie style hippies revival, dig it? Central Voice is a co-sponsor of the event.

Info:www.cpaawoofstock.com or email woofstock2006@yahoo.com

What Fuels Midtown Harrisburg's Crime?

By Frank Pizzoli

With several street crimes in as many days, Midtown Harrisburg residents began summer fearing the sunny season would turn dark. Young offenders mugged residents. Others went randomly "wilding" through streets.

By mid-June, their edginess subsided but nervous tremors still percolated down Midtown's tree-lined streets. By mid-July, the local daily newspaper showed four S. 17th St. children looking at a sheet covered banister hiding from view a gunned-down victim. Three days later a second shoot out rattled neighbors at S. 14th & Berryhill Sts. on South Allison Hill. By July 22, city police had rounded up paddy wagons full of suspects ranging in age from 13 to 35. Fourteen firearms had been seized. More firearms were confiscated in early August.

> "The whole city's in trouble, not just Midtown."

"The whole city's in trouble, not just Midtown," said one source, afraid to use his name. Aug. 9, Harrisburg's Martin Luther King Coalition, a group of churches and community groups, held a peace march focusing attention on street violence. That same day friends of city resident Eric Cooper, shot to death Oct. 24, held "Stop the Violence" day in his honor at Edgemont Community Park.

Another source requesting anonymity said he heard the kind of crime in Midtown is routine in the city's uptown

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Is your pet gay?
see p. 19

Award winner
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Activists & Volunteers
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CLUB XS

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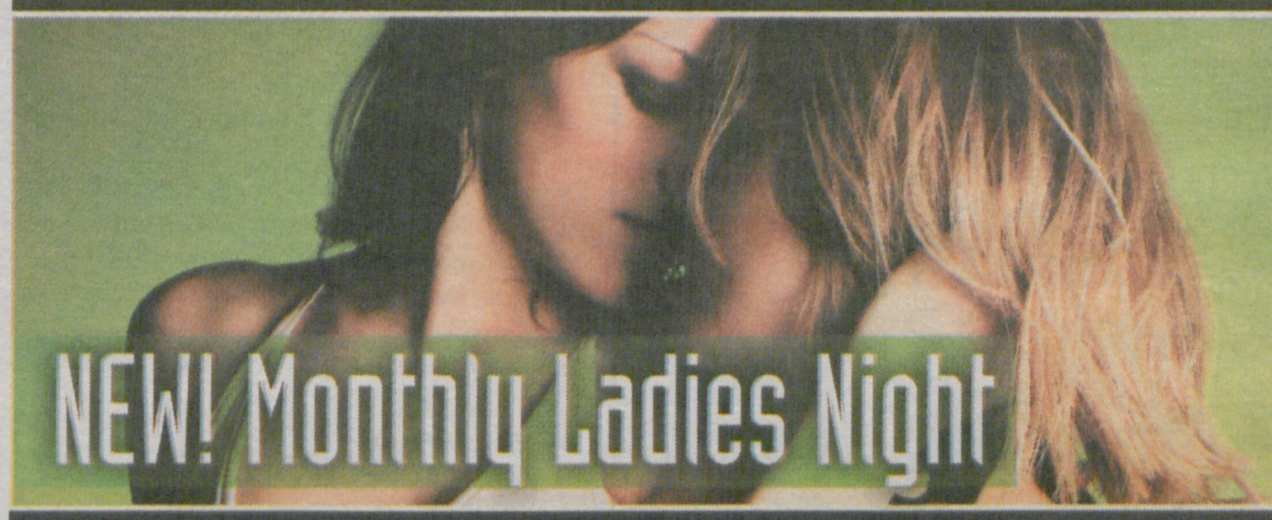
DON'T MISS
FRIDAY, SEPT. 12TH

- $75 For a Table of Four
- $15 General Admission price
- **Miss Biscuit and Her Double D's** special performance follows
- Tickets go on sale August 20th

CHRISTOPHER PETERSON STARS IN:
A NIGHT OF ILLUSION



NEW! Monthly Ladies Night

- Ladies-only access behind the curtains to rooms and dance floor area!
- Girls Galore! Bartenders/Shot-girls, etc.
- $2 Coors Light Bottles all night
- $5 Cover Charge

STARTING ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 26TH

PLEASE JOIN CLUB XS FOR OUR
2ND ANNIVERSARY PARTY

- **LIVE Performance by Crystal Waters!**
- **Special Guest DJ Seth Gold**
- $5 Cover
- Long Island Iced Teas - $5

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

Pride Chair Walker Announces Step Down

2008 Pride Chair Dave Walker emailed this message to Central Voice: I want to share my thoughts on Pride and the Parade. This Pride will always be a special Pride. You see this one will be my last one as Chair. The group that worked on these events was a very special group because they wouldn't give up. After the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard (GLSH) was disbanded and all hope lost, this group found a way to present you with the best to date. They moved the accounting piece to The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) to bring Pride to a higher standard for the community. They also performed tasks that were new and difficult to do at first, but they found a way to overcome these tasks. What you saw at Pride was the fruits of their labor. I would like to thank you who attended and also our vendors. Without each of you none of this would be as special. I also hope some of you will step forward to help plan the next Pride. I am proud to have been a part of this. Thanks. Dave Walker, Pride Chair 2008

The Harrisburg Human Relations Commission executive director Mamie Williams, Councilwoman Patty Kim, Phila. Equality Advocates executive director Stacey Sobel, Attorney Ben Dunlap, councilman Dan Miller, councilwoman Gloria Martin Roberts.

2 Local Groups Celebrate National Coming Out Day

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Center Coalition and the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus are excited to announce two local events in celebration of National Coming Out Day observed Oct. 11.

The LGBT Center Coalition is hosting speaker Beth Stroud October 10 and the Womyn's Chorus sings with Tret Fure in concert at the Unity Church, Enola October 11.

National Coming Out Day is a civil awareness day for coming out and discussion of lgbt issues. The LGBT Center Coalition and the Womyn's Chorus are participating in this national effort by offering two local events to stimulate meaningful dialogue and celebrate lgbt identities.

Kicking off the weekend October 10 at Harrisburg's Market Square Presbyterian Church, Stroud speaks on her coming out experiences. She served for six years as an ordained United Methodist pastor, First United Methodist Church of Germantown before losing her clergy credentials in a 2004 church trial. In the trial, Stroud was found guilty of "practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teaching" because she acknowledged living in a committed relationship with another woman.

An inspiring piece of her story is that her church supported her throughout the trial, and hired her as a lay minister after she lost her credentials. Beth continued to serve as a member of the church staff until very recently, as she begins to pursue an academic career. She regularly speaks at churches, universities, and forums about lgbt issues involving religion, equality, and her own personal experiences as a Lesbian preacher. Info: www.bethstroud.info.

The celebration continues on Oct. 11 at the Unity Church in Enola, as the Womyn's Chorus presents Tret Fure, an award-winning independent musician whose career has spanned four decades. Fure began touring at age 19, in the early 70s, when women weren't welcome in most areas of music. Her debut album came out two years later, and within months Fure was working with some of the biggest bands of the era. While recording her second album, Tret became interested in sound engineering, learning the trade and becoming one of the first female soundengineers in LA.

Tret continues to be a major force in women's music. She has her own label, Tomboy Girl Records, as well as a clothing line that celebrates the tomboy girl in all of us. In addition, she has produced a series called Music & Comedy in Madison and has co-hosted the successful festival, Tomboy Girl Fest.

The mission of the LGBT Center Coalition is to create common ground for the lgbt community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through spiritual, education and cultural activities that foster wholeness. The LGBT Center Coalition is a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus brings together a diverse group of women, united by the joy of singing, to celebrate and empower women and to affirm a positive image of lesbians and feminists. Web sites: www.centralpalgbtcenter.org and www.cpwchorus.org, respectively.

Engagement

Tony Gibble and Clint Shields of Lancaster, Pa announce their Wedding Engagement.

Tony is the Office Manager for Primary Lending Services and Clint is a Customer Service Representative for Commerce Bank. Tony and Clint, both models, met through a model and photographer web site in 2007. Originally from Kansas, Clint moved to Pennsylvania later that year. Tony proposed marriage last New Year's Eve at midnight. They now live together with Tony's 6 year-old-adopted son in Lancaster and are planning an October 16, 2009 wedding.

Dan Miller Introduces Domestic Partner Legislation

Noting that reactions had been "positive" from fellow Harrisburg city council members, councilman Dan Miller recently introduced domestic partner legislation. The measure would allow unmarried city couples, straight or gay, to register as "life partners" and participate benefits as may be available, in particular employer provided health insurance, says Miller.

Miller introduced the legislation, under council's review, after he was approached by city resident Jim Schumacher. He needed to have his 2 1/2 year relationship formally documented before he could enroll in his partner's health care plan.

"There is no standard means of substantiating who is a life partner and each employer must determine and maintain their own set of qualifications," Miller says. Currently many employers issue health insurance and other benefits to unmarried employees and their life partners. Miller's measure doe not require an employer to offer any additional benefits. His measure is not a recognition of same-sex marriage or civil unions.

If passed, the City of Harrisburg will provide a standard mechanism and maintain a Life Partnership Registry for residents. "Employers can reduce their burden by opting to use this registry as verification of Life Partner status for company employees," Miller says.

Potential registrants must live or work in the city, be 18 years of age, currently unmarried or not in another registered life partner relationship, and meet a minimum of three forms of common financial obligation. If a life partnership terminates, at least one party shall notify the city to update the registry. The registry fee is $25.

In announcing his proposed legislation, Miller was joined by Attorney Ben Dunlap, who reviewed and issued an opinion on the legislation, Stacey Sobel, Executive Director Equality Advocates of PA, and Mamie Williams, Executive Director Harrisburg City Human Relations Commission. Councilwoman Patty Kim and councilwoman Gloria Martin Roberts also expressed their support of the legislation.

In a 7-1 vote, Pittsburgh city council June 17 approved a similar version of a domestic-partnership registry for unmarried couples. Philadelphia, Seattle; Toledo. Ohio; and Urbana, Ill. Have such registries. Upon passage, Pittsburgh mayor Luke Ravenstahl said, "We're going to continue to make sure Pittsburgh is a progressive city and a city that can be America's most livable city, for everyone."

Gaudenzia Hosts Autumn Blues BBQ Sept. 27

Gaudenzia, Pennsylvania's largest non-profit provider of drug and alcohol treatment services, offering 111 programs in 66 facilities, hosts the Autumn Blues BBQ on Harrisburg City Island's Carousel Pavilion Sept. 27, noon - 4 p.m. The event benefits the organization.

Since 1968, Gaudenzia has been helping people and their families overcome the ravages of drug and alcohol addictions. Addiction is a disease that if left untreated is nearly always fatal. Last year, over 900,000 Pennsylvanians were identified with drug or alcohol addictions; yet last year, only 92,000 Pennsylvanians received any treatment to help them overcome their addictions. Addiction afflicts 1 in 4 families.

Entertaining are The Nighthawks who for more than 30 years have regaled audiences all over the world with their unique blend of blues, rock, soul R&B and swing. They've played along side legends that include Muddy Waters and BB King. Also on the slate are Nate Meyers and the Aces an energetic, original music based in roots and blues lead by vocalist Nate Myers and his harmonica..

Ticket info: www.gaudenzia.org

find more community voice on page 5

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Central to your life.

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publisher's note

Creating Safe Schools Leads to Tolerance

Frank Pizzoli

No one should feel unsafe in school. There are no throw-away students. Same as there are no throw-away employees. Yet feeling unsafe is often the norm for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students in high schools and colleges. We should leave no student behind.

Researchers suggest that one to three of every 10 students is either gay or lesbian, or has an immediate family member who is. That means between three and nine kids in every class of 30 has had some direct experience with the issues of homosexuality and homophobia.

28% of gay and lesbian high school students in a national study were seen to have dropped out of school because of harassment resulting from their sexual orientation. (Remafedi, G., Pediatrics, 326-330. 1987)

97% of students in public high schools report regularly hearing homophobic remarks from their peers. (Making Schools Safe for Gay and Lesbian Youth: Report of Mass. Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, 1993)

The most compelling reason schools need to address sexual orientation is that young people are asking. Silence on sexuality communicates values just as loudly as responding does. We must teach by example values that show respect for one another and caring about one another's feelings, regardless of differences.

Schools have an obligation to support and enhance the self-esteem of all students regardless of their sexual orientation. They are also a logical place to provide accurate information. Accurate information must come from teachers, coaches, and administrators. If professional educators cannot pledge to provide accurate information on gay issues – and to protect all students regardless of their own private feelings or issues on the matter – then they should resign. There is no room for equivocation.

I am not whining. Read what follows if you can.

Ronnie Paris would shake, wet himself and vomit as his father forced him into a box and repeatedly slapped him on the head in an effort to prevent him from being gay, testified his mother, Nysheerah Paris, at his father's trial. The boy was 3 years old when he died from swelling on both sides of the brain in early 2008. The toddler slipped into a coma. "He was trying to teach him how to fight," the boy's aunt, Shanita Powell, told the court. "He was concerned that the child might be gay." "He didn't want him to be a sissy," Shelton Bostic, the defendant's Bible-study friend, testified.

Another student reports: "People kept coming up to me and making fun of me, they would call me horrible names and I would cry all the time. Letters were put in my locker saying things about AIDS and how my parents shouldn't have had me and how I should just die. Kids would threaten me after school and follow me home yelling things at me. No one should have to go through what I went through in school."

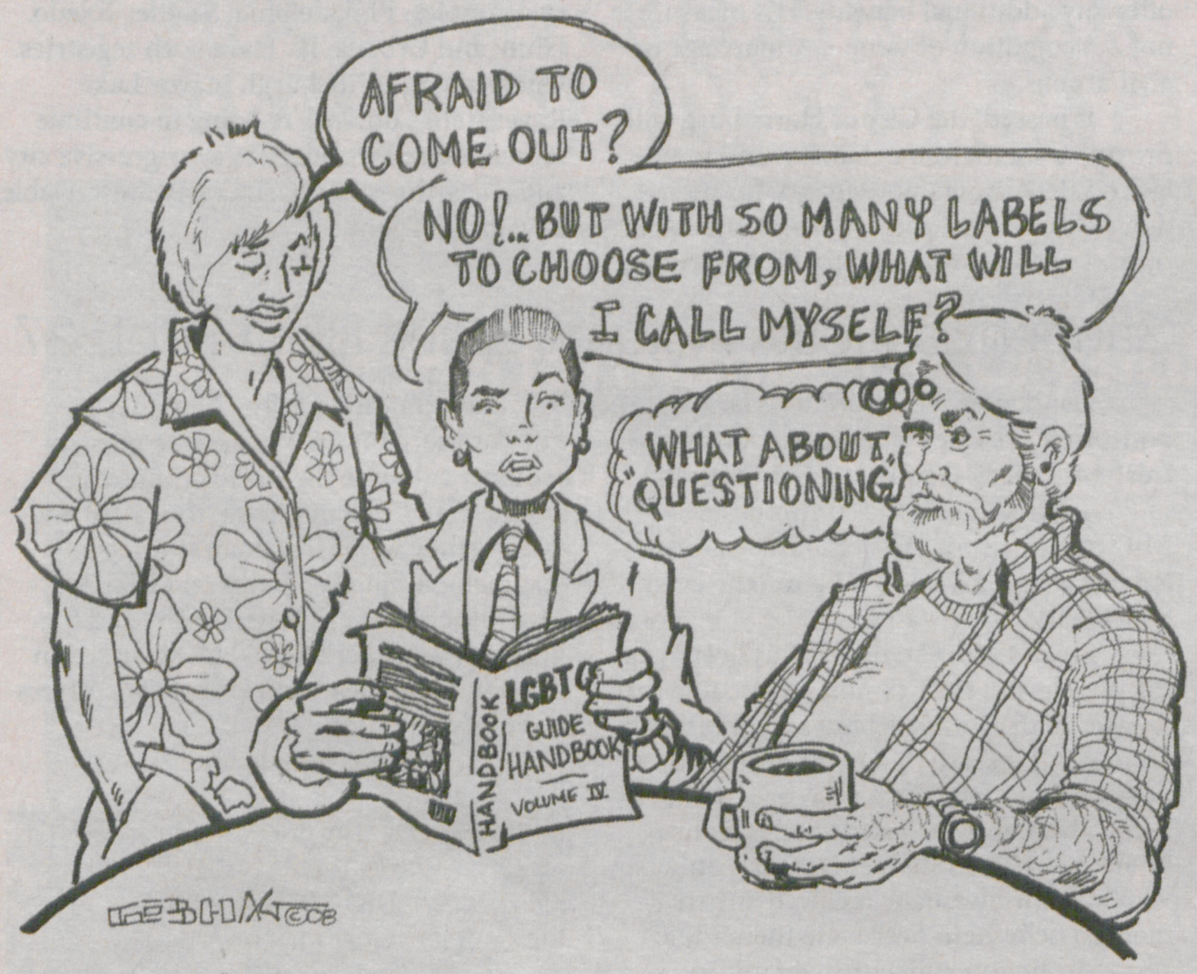
"There was no one in my school for me to talk about my issues. I felt completely alone and unsupported. I had nowhere to unload the burden I was feeling unless I ended it."

Locally, Michelle Simmons, recent executive director of Common Roads, one of the region's two youth-oriented glbt organizations, says "Although almost all school districts in central Pennsylvania have anti-bullying policies on their books, fewer than half include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination and anti-harassment policies. As a result, gay and lesbian students and those perceived as such are not protected by school policy."

Common Roads has been working with schools and colleges throughout the region to create "safe space" and to provide technical assistance for students, teachers, and counselors in starting a Gay Student Alliances. GSAs are organizations that bring together gay students and their supports to create a greater awareness and understanding.

Simmons organized the first annual GSA Summit in February 2008 and brought together 150 attendees for more than a dozen workshops and programs. Another organization, York-based The Curve, offers programming for gay youth. "I have found that the presence of GSAs or similar organizations in high schools and college campuses make a significant difference in lgbt students' experiences at school," says Deborah Gable, Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania. She says the absence of safe space implies intolerance and can make lgbt young people feel invisible, isolated and vulnerable.

"We have heard from several middle school students that there is a great need for GSAs in middle schools, as young people are coming out at earlier ages and need support," Gable notes. The Curve worked with Common Roads to make the GSA Summit a success. The 2009 GSA Summit will be hosted by Dickinson College and promises to be even bigger, with more opportunities for networking and advocacy training.


AFRAID TO COME OUT?
NO!.. BUT WITH SO MANY LABELS TO CHOOSE FROM, WHAT WILL I CALL MYSELF?
WHAT ABOUT "QUESTIONING"
HANDBOOK LGBTQ GUIDE HANDBOOK VOLUME IV

voice box

"PA Education Secretary Gerald L. Zahorchak notes in a recent study by the Pennsylvania General Assembly "we are $4.6 billion shy of where we should be in funding our children's futures."

Harrisburg School District superintendent Dr.Gerald Kohn says: "Our graduation and college acceptance rates have increased 116% and 383% respectively," he notes. "As an educator, I was particularly struck by the report's finding that 'school districts with higher wealth, and lower needs, spend more than lower wealth districts – and do so while making lower tax effort.' As a result, students with the greatest educational needs are left without the resources that are essential, despite high local tax burdens that prove their community's commitment to quality schools.

"Now that the costing-out study has been completed, it is time to work together on a school funding formula that adequately and equitably funds public education in the commonwealth. This report details the level of resources that our schools need, and it is up to state policy-makers to determine the appropriate partnership between state and local funding to arrive at those targets.

"The General Assembly's costing-out study should encourage us to work together to achieve adequacy in a responsible and reasonable manner."

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

Democratic Party Animal

BY DARREN SAGE

No one who knows him will be surprised if John Campbell someday becomes the nation's first openly gay president.

In seventh grade, he told his mother that he wanted to be president. While it's not unusual for kids that age to have dreams of high-profile careers, it is unusual for them to grow up never wavering from their first aspiration. To characterize Campbell as unusual would be an understatement.

"When he was little, before he could read, he would take the stock section out of the newspaper every Sunday and go hide and read it, or pretend to read it," said Frenchie Cline, Campbell's mother.

Now 20, he is an assiduous political activist, a member of Harrisburg Young Professionals and the Stonewall Democrats, and the youngest president the Dauphin County Young Democrats has ever had.

"My life is consumed by the political realm," Campbell said.

"John is very energetic, full of life, a hard worker," said Alex Reber, Campbell's roommate and one of his best friends. "If he believes something, he believes it wholeheartedly and he will work like hell to get there."

Those are sentiments that come up often when family and friends describe Campbell. He is, in fact, like a barely contained nuclear reaction, always in motion, Blackberry close at hand, talking rapidly in a futile attempt to keep pace with his hypersonic brain.

"He doesn't ever give up, ever," Cline said, sounding simultaneously exasperated and proud.

Born in Steelton, the oldest of five children, Campbell was raised by a struggling, largely single mother with conservative Catholic influences. Cline, who claims an utter indifference to politics, said she has no idea where her son's passion comes from.

"It was never a topic at the dinner table," Cline said.

Campbell remembers first becoming interested in the political world during the Gore-Bush election campaign. He decided to like Gore because "they were blue and I hated red." One of his friends "chose red," he said, "and we would go at it." Another of his criteria for supporting Gore over Bush, he admitted somewhat sheepishly, was that he thought Gore was better looking.

From that pubescent beginning, he started paying closer attention to the substance of the election and began to develop an appreciation and understanding of the issues. Then a 10th grade civics class and its dynamic teacher clinched it. After that, "my interest in politics really, really grew."

His 10th grade world cultures teacher had an equally significant, albeit different, impact on his life when he found out she had referred to him as a "faggot" one day while he was out of the room.

"I freaked out," Campbell said.

After Campbell confronted his teacher, the principal called his parents and related the incident to them. When he got home, his parents were sympathetic but confused by the extremity of his reaction to the epithet. Although he was already out to many of his friends and classmates, he hadn't yet come out to his parents.

"I just kept saying 'you don't understand, you don't understand,'" Campbell said, but fear kept him from explaining. "It was stuck right here," he said, holding his hand to his throat.

Finally, his sister asked "Are you gay?" He responded, "I don't know," which, he said, was his way of saying "yes."

He needn't have worried.

"I've known since he was 3," Cline said, laughing. "I was just waiting for him to realize it." She said she has always tried to emphasize to all her kids that they needn't ever be afraid to talk to her or tell her the truth about who they are. "I think he was very strong to hold that in for so long."

Still, she admits to having been worried about him. Freed of the weighty secret, Campbell's mannerisms waxed somewhat flamboyant and, like any good mother, she feared for her son's safety.

"Where we lived at the time, most people don't accept that," she said, although she added that he never had any problems.

"I have a very open-minded family," said Campbell, jokingly adding that his mom now occasionally calls him for advice on what to wear. "And my dad doesn't care, he just says 'as long as you're happy.'"

Campbell blossomed after coming out. He became more popular and self-confident, even a bit of a class clown.

"I've come to accept it, obviously," he said. "Now I'm like, 'Yeah, this is awesome!'"

"I don't see it as anything wrong," Cline said. "I'm just so proud of him."

Not surprisingly, Campbell's sexual orientation informs his political positions and activism, although it doesn't dominate them.

"Gay issues are not my number-one issue," which, Campbell said, surprises a lot of people. "It's just equality for all – blacks, Hispanics, women…."

But gay issues occupy a prominent place in his political ideology, including

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Jennifer Storm, Writer & Survivor

BY MADELINE MASTERS

Publication leaves a sweet, satisfying taste in the mouth of a true writer.

That's why Jennifer Storm, author and executive director of the Victim and Witness Assistance Program, is writing another book.

In her first book, "Blackout Girl," Storm explores her years as a young girl who experienced abuse, alienation, and addiction. Now she feels it's time to tell about the next chapter of her life, after making the decision to stop her self-destruction.

Where "Blackout Girl" is intended as a tool for the abused to learn that they are not alone, Storm plans for her second book to inform addicts that life after drugs can be possible, and wonderful.

"You can have a life beyond your wildest expectations and dreams," says Storm.

She admits that addiction to drugs and alcohol is an exceptionally difficult disease. "It was like I woke up from a 10-year coma," is how Storm describes getting sober after years of drinking and smoking crack and marijuana in an attempt to self-medicate.

Storm noted that 80 to 90 percent of recovering drug and alcohol abusers relapse. "You have to deal with every single reason why you're doing it," she explained, or else a substance abuser cannot fully recover. Storm made it through with a lot of support and a lot of determination.

The young author also wants the new book to answer this question: How did she take that next step from recovered alcoholic and drug addict to sober college student?

Simply refusing alcohol at Penn State Main seems like a daunting challenge, but Storm was fully committed to her new life. "I didn't need alcohol, I don't want it anymore," she said, because she confronted the issues in her past that drove her to use it in the first place. "Don't get me wrong, I went to parties," said Storm. But she stuck to her vow of sobriety.

"I ran into a few jerks," Storm said, but overall people at the college were supportive of her lifestyle, both as a non-drinker and as a lesbian. "I don't drink and I'm gay," she said she told her friends.

Storm says being open about her past with new acquaintances is part of her recovery. "Secrets keep me sick," she says. Now she hides nothing: "What you see is what you get."

Storm came to Penn State as a provisional student, meaning she was on academic probation for her first year. Her high school GPA was 1.5 and she had never taken the SATs. As part of her application, Storm wrote and essay explaining why she wanted to go to college. She was also required to keep at least a C average while on probation. "I never got below a B," Storm claims. Education became the most important thing in her life.

But it didn't just come from professors and lectures. Storm says she learned a lot from her advocacy experiences for the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community.

During college, Storm fully embraced her new self, and she made her homosexuality public, which she had always kept hidden from herself and others.

"It was easier to hide my sexuality because I didn't know anything about myself," Storm said about the years before sobriety. "I didn't know the world before," she said, "And when I did, I started to get angry."

Storm participated in rallies, protests, and meetings, always advocating for policy changes at the school and in government. Penn State never had a LGBT resource center before Storm came to campus. As a result of Storm's and others' advocacy, Penn State now has a sizeable LGBT resource center as well as a LGBT studies minor and an Institute for Gay Studies.

"I'm not afraid of confrontation," says Storm. "If I see something wrong, I call it out. I have a high threshold of ethics."

Because of her activism, people close to Storm ask her why she doesn't run for any political office. Storm feels a required level of corruption comes with a public office, and integrity is too important to her.

But, "I'd love to have Nancy Grace's job," she admits. For now, Storm will stick with her job at VWA for her chance to advocate on behalf of crime victims.

Around her full-time position serving the public, Storm finds time to finish book #2.

"I've always been a writer. I love to write," says Storm. She always keeps a journal. Storm also writes for Mystic Pop, an online New Age magazine, and has a regular blog on "The Second Road," a support Web site that provides a place for people to communicate and learn about addiction and abuse.

Storm claims writing is a definite part of her sobriety, and authoring "Blackout Girl" helped her accept her past. She began seriously thinking about writing her memoir three years ago. Once she had the draft done, she said she thought, "Now I gotta publish it."

So how did Storm get published? Unusual in the world of books, Storm got her deal as an independent, unsolicited author. She wrote up her manuscript, had it edited, then sent it off to publishing houses. "I got about a thousand rejections," Storm jokes,

continued on page 24

Transgender Education Association of Central PA

Providing a safe space and caring support for transgender individuals, family, friends & allies as well as gender education and outreach to universities, businesses, government & non-profit agencies.

Meetings: First Saturday each month, meeting starts at 8 PM
Location: Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit
Parking available in secure, low-traffic area.
Alcohol is not permitted.

July 5- No meeting
August 2- Meeting, visit our website for more information!
September 6- Meeting, visit our website for more information!
October 4- Meeting, visit our website for more information!

email: info@transcentralpa.org
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lesbian notions

Can We Really Trust Obama?

By Diane Silver

Twelve years ago this September, Bill Clinton broke my heart. Today, as I watch another Democrat courting lgbt voters as he runs for president, I can't help but wonder if Barack Obama will do the same.

My heartbreak came on Sept. 21, 1996, when Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act. With that one action, the man who was supposed to be the first pro-lgbt president threw us under the bus. Because of DOMA, same-sex couples married today in California and Massachusetts can't claim federal benefits or see their marriages acknowledged in most other states. Should I even mention the Clinton administration's "don't ask, don't tell" debacle that continues to drive lesbians and gays out of the military?

Of course, that was a long time ago, in a different political climate. Today, even Hillary Clinton takes a far more positive stance on lgbt rights than her husband ever did.

But we have good reason to worry, and the basis for that concern has little to do with Obama. In the bare-knuckle world of politics, power counts. Despite political gains, lgbt voters still can't swing elections in all but limited localities. The mere idea that we might make progress continues to inspire millions to vote against our rights in referenda and against any candidates who are pro-gay.

Until the lgbt community and our allies can guarantee victory for friends and defeat for opponents, the pressure on politicians to take anti-queer stances will be enormous. I don't know Obama personally, so I can't even begin to guess if he will break under pressure. But he does remind me of another politician I know well - Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

I met Sebelius - now a potential Obama running mate - 21 years ago, when she was a freshman member of the Kansas House, and I was covering the legislature for a McClatchy newspaper. I once lobbied for lgbt issues in her Statehouse. From everything I've seen, Sebelius doesn't have a homophobic bone in her body. And yet, that fact hasn't translated into much help for lgbt people in Kansas.

At her core, Sebelius is a practical politician. She seldom takes unpopular positions. In an age when the constantly measured whims of public opinion can look like a speeding train, I can't imagine Sebelius ever attempting to switch that train to another track.

Obama's approach appears much the same. In a 2007 analysis of his eight years in the Illinois Senate, the New York Times called Obama "practical and shrewd." Illinois lobbyist Paul L. Williams said Obama's attitude was to wish for the moon, but to realize that "right now I've only got enough gas to go this far." In a 2004 interview with Obama's hometown lgbt newspaper, the Windy City Times, Obama admitted that he opposes same-sex marriage "primarily just as a strategic issue."

"Strategically, I think we can get civil unions passed...I think that to the extent that we can get the rights, I'm less concerned about the name," Obama said.

Since that time, he has shifted to the right on marriage - an issue where public opinion is still largely anti-gay. Obama now says his stand comes from religious conviction. He has even adopted the language of the religious right saying, as he did in June on ABC, that "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman."

There are a multitude of reasons to support Obama. He is firm about his wish to repeal DOMA and "don't ask, don't tell." He opposes a federal constitutional amendment banning marriage equality, and supports civil unions with full benefits. He favors the Employment Non-Discrimination Act with transgender rights included. As president, Obama could have the opportunity to appoint at least one Supreme Court justice with moderate to progressive leanings.

Aside from opposing the federal marriage amendment, John McCain promises none of that. He endorsed an Arizona ban on marriage equality and just announced support for the proposal that would do the same in California. Despite rumblings that the Log Cabin Republicans might endorse McCain, I can't see one reason why any lgbt American should vote for him.

None of this, though, tells us whether we can trust that Obama won't pull a Bill Clinton and fold under pressure. Personally, I don't think we can trust Obama. However, to borrow the candidate's favorite word, I do think we can hope.

We can hope that a President Obama will keep his promises and sign pro-lgbt bills that get to his desk. More importantly, we can hope that, as president, Obama will do what he does best, and speak out for us.

Already, Obama has done so in venues that could hardly be called gay friendly, including taking the black community to task for having "scorned our gay brothers and sisters instead of embracing them."

If Obama can find the strength to use the bully pulpit of the presidency to argue for equality and fairness, what a grand thing that will be.

Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose freelance writing has appeared in Ms. magazine, Salon.com, and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication.

LGBT Center Coalition's Marven Poised for Action

"I'm very interested in the idea of community," says Louis Marven, recently hired part-time staffer for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center Coalition. Marven reports that he "felt immediately welcomed by the region's lgbt community. People have been so excited to hear about the work toward a community center."

Formed in 2006, the Center Coalition is a volunteer-led effort to create a regionally representative community center as both a location and a unifying point for central Pennsylvania's large, diverse and multi-county gay population.

The center coalition's mission is to create common ground for the lgbt community and allies by providing services through spiritual, educational and cultural activities that foster wholeness in the service area of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties. The current goal is for the coalition to become its own 501(c) 3 organization by July 1, 2009.

Louis Marven

"The Center Coalition grew out of an entity known as Equity for Lesbians and Gays (EGAL). The center coalition and EGAL are both current projects of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC)," explains Ben Dunlap, EGAL chair. EGAL was formed as a fund-raising committee to obtain matching grant money of $100,000 from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership. "That goal has been accomplished and has led to numerous grants to local lgbt organizations, including $50,000 to start and support Common Roads," Dunlap says.

In order to obtain the grant money, EGAL was required to conduct a needs assessment in the local lgbt community. "The study found broad consensus that a community center was needed. EGAL provided the organization and the funding to get the process started," Dunlap says. As the Center Coalition develops, EGAL is examining its future role in the community. In doing so, its goal is to provide services, through its link with TFEC, that otherwise would not be available.

"When I read about the coalition I was so excited about the work they had been doing. I'm very interested in the idea of community, and what can happen when people come together for a common purpose," Marven says. He sees a need for increasing a sense of community, "so the idea of being part of such a significant, worthy cause also very much drew me into the work." Marven says he immediately felt welcome by the region's lgbt community.

He's originally from Wappingers Falls, New York, in the mid-Hudson Valley. "I came to the area to attend Messiah College. He graduated in 2007 with a dual degree in English and Sociology and currently lives in Sycamore House, an intentional community at St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Harrisburg.

Marven hopes "to get our name and mission out there. I want to let people know about the great work that is happening here, because I know that they will be excited." He works out of a space leased from The Foundation for Enhancing Communities in the Fulton Bank Building in downtown Harrisburg. He is in the office during business hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and can be reached there at 236-5040. Feel free to call during other times and leave a voicemail, or send him an email at lmarven@centralpalgbtcenter.org. Website – www.centralpalgbtcenter.org.

"Marven is a terrific find for the Center Coalition. He is enthusiastic, bright and committed to the project. He will work hard to develop the center's programming and its role as a central information source," Dunlap says.

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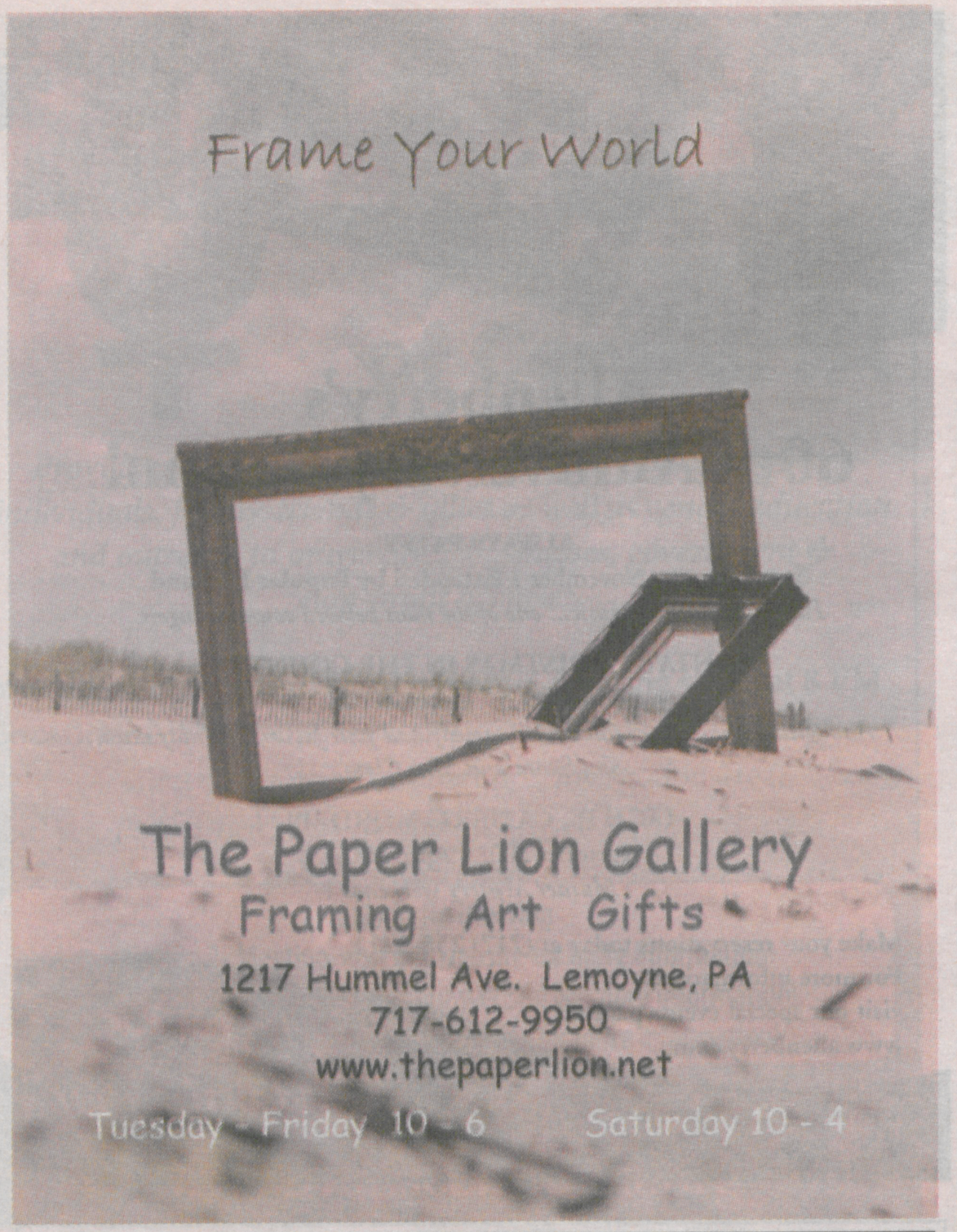

Comic Book Invasion

Watch for more events like Downtown Comi-Con. The Comic Book Invasion at Harrisburg's Maennechor Club is the invention of Jonas Hair, originator of Progressive Galleries and Nathan DeMuro, N8 Maintenance. "I'm totally event driven. We're not a gallery in one place," Hair says.

Hair and DeMuro seek to enrich the region's arts scene with cross-promoted events involving all kinds of artist – visual, musical, short film, lights, every kind of artistic stimulation imaginable. "We all share the marketing and the fun," Hair says.

Photos by Frank Pizzoli

Progressive Galleries originator Jonas Hair organizes multimedia shows into a creative chaos at Harrisburg's Maennerchor Cub (progressivegalleries.com).

Comic book lovers bar side at Maennerchor Club.

Tommy Lebo, Bill Packer, Brass Monkey owners Bryan Campbell, and Frank McManus.

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arts & entertainment calendar

HARRISBURG SYMPHONY

November 30 – December 7, 2008 Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra hosts a tour to some of Europe's most magical and musical cities. HSO Executive Director Jeff Woodruff will take a group to Salzburg, Linz, Vienna and Prague. Travelers can expect to visit historic sites, view breathtaking scenery, shop in charming holiday markets, and enjoy classical music throughout this eight day tour. EUROPE: the Music & the Magic includes visits to Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg, the Mozarthaus where Mozart composed his Linz Symphony, and a magnificent tour of Vienna's Schoenbrunn Palace. The tour will see familiar scenes from "The Sound of Music," dine in the wine-making village of Grinzing and shop in holiday markets in Salzburg, Vienna and Prague. Guests may also choose to add one or both of two Special Concert Evenings. **Please RSVP to 717-545-5527.**

STRAND CAPITOL

Winner's Circle of Last Comic Standing
Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. featuring Alonzo Bodden, Jon Reep and John Heffron

Dallas Brass
Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. featuring an appearance by the Dallastown High School band

Brenda Lee
Sat., Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. Holiday favorites & greatest hits by "Little Miss Dynamite"

HERSHEY THEATRE

75TH HERSHEY THEATRE SEASON
Oct. 21 -26 Pajama Game.
Jan. 13 - 18 Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Experience on stage the musical that inspired the Tim Burton and Johnny Depp movie.
Feb. 3 – Feb. 8 Avenue Q. Broadway's smash-hit 2004 Tony Award winner for Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Book. *WARNING: Due to adult situations like full puppet nudity, Avenue Q is not suitable for all audiences.*
March 24 - 29 Riverdance, the thunderous celebration of Irish music, song and dance, will play their Farewell Performances.
April 21 - 26 Happy Days – A New Musical. Happy Days are here again with Richie, Potsie, Ralph Malph and Arthur "The Fonz" Fonzarelli.

September 6 Bob Newhart. Bob Newhart is a Jack of trades when it comes to comedic abilities. For the past four decades, Newhart has been entertaining audiences on stage and on TV with his smash variety show "The Bob Newhart Show." To his name, Newhart has won an Emmy, TV Land's prestigious "Icon Award," a Golden Globe and three Grammy Awards—including Album of the Year for his comedy recording—just to name a few. He has also been inducted into the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame for his influences on contemporary comedians like Jerry Seinfeld.

WHITAKER CENTER

An Evening with Tony Bennett - Sept., 8pm
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The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience - Through October 5
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience, from Warner Bros. Pictures, has been digitally re-mastered into the unparalleled image and sound quality of The IMAX Experience® through proprietary IMAX DMR® technology. With the help of Lieutenant Jim Gordon and District Attorney Harvey Dent, Batman sets out to dismantle the remaining criminal organizations that plague the city streets. The partnership proves to be effective, but they soon find themselves prey to a reign of chaos unleashed by a rising criminal mastermind known to the terrified citizens of Gotham as The Joker.

reviews of books, DVDs and CDs

Donna Summers

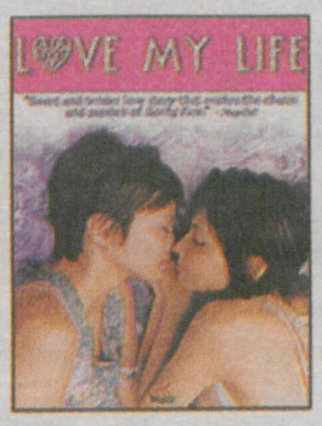
She's back! The Queen of disco is back in rare form with new album Crayons. Her single "I'm on Fire" is No. 1 on Billboard's Hot Dance List. "Stomp your Feet" is also burning up tune lovers everywhere.

Cyndi Lauper

Bring Ya to the Brink- Lauper has never sounded more at home on brand new dance floor-ready studio album "Bring Ya to the Brink." The girl who just wanted to have fun truly sounds as though she is having the time of her life, and it shows.

Mariah Carey

E = MC2 - The world was introduced to Mariah Carey when she released her first single "Vision Of Love". "E=MC2" is another one for the record books. Songs from this album will grace radio waves deep into 2009.



Love My Life

Opposites attract in this charming love story from Japan. Ichiko is a happy go lucky girl who falls in love with serious Eri, a fellow student at the university. Ichiko wants to tell the world about their love – beginning with her father. But gay romance is not quite as easy as Ichiko envisions. When she comes out, she learns surprising family secrets. And Eri's studies soon are keeping them apart.

S is for Sexy

Seven Sexy and Smart Award Winning Gay Shorts. Directors (in English) are Jason Bushman, Michaline Babich, Damien Rea, Rick Hammerly, Reza Rameri, Tobias Martin & Rodney Sewell, Remy van Heugten

Classic Movie Buff Blog

Former Central Voice writer John DiLeo, a nationally known film writer and historian, recently launched his blog to coincide with a review of his work on Turner Classic Movies. The channel recently devoted prime-time programming to DiLeo's popular book "Screen Savers," which New Yorker magazine movie reviewer hailed as a benchmark in film history.

Host Robert Osborne selected five movies featured in DiLeo's book and introduced them on air during the program.

"Check out screensaversmovies.com and don't be shy about posting a comment or asking me a movie question," DiLeo says. "We could just blog talk about some old movie you saw and liked or talk about some classic star."

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Adult Adoption: Estate Planning Tool or Legal Pitfall?

By Leo L. Dunn

Over the past decade or two, attorneys have occasionally counseled gay couples that one partner, usually the one with more wealth, should legally adopt the other partner. In most states, adopted children are treated the same as legitimate children by blood. Thus, an "adult child" becomes the legal heir to the adoptive parent and their inheritance is very difficult to challenge. Since adoption is a court procedure, this requires that a judge sign the adoption order. Not all judges agree with adult adoption but enough allow it that it's not too hard to accomplish. Better yet, adoption is not like marriage. You cannot terminate an adoption. Once adopted the person is your child forever. Seems simple and fool-proof, right? Not so fast.

A case decided in Maine recently upsets this potential avenue of estate planning. A lesbian couple there received a court order in 1991 approving the adoption by the wealthy partner of the less fortunate partner. They then separated and seemingly went their separate ways. However, the adopting parent, Olive Watson, is the granddaughter of IBM founder, Thomas Watson, Sr. There are several family trusts that all the Watson heirs receive income from. Ms. Watson's former partner, Patricia Spado, sued to receive her portion as an adoptive great-granddaughter.

The trustees countered by asking the court to annul the adoption. After years of court battle, the trustees won based on the premise that the court originally granting the adoption had no jurisdiction over the "child" because she was not a resident of the county where the court held jurisdiction. This case underlines that individuals will go to extreme lengths when large sums of money are involved.

Here in Pennsylvania, it seems that adult adoptions have not been challenged. But do not get too comfortable. It simply means the court has not yet ruled on the issue. In New York the court ruled that same-sex couples could not use adoption to create legal family ties. Connecticut requires the adopting person to be older than the adoptee. Here we do not yet have perimeters set.

Thus, we get back to the standard line: if you and your partner are Pennsylvania residents and in a committed relationship don't try to take shortcuts. Execute a valid will, financial power of attorney, health care directive, and if enough assets are at stake create a valid trust. Until Pennsylvania legalizes same-sex marriage you are not guaranteeing each other protection by trying to use a short-cut or another state's laws unless you become a resident of the other state first.

There are several first-rate attorneys in Pennsylvania that are happy to work with same-sex couples. Some are GLBT themselves. In order to locate one, contact the Pennsylvania Bar Association and ask to be referred to a member of the association's Gay and Lesbian Rights Committee.

Leo L. Dunn is an attorney who practices estate planning in the Harrisburg area.

Manor Care of Camp Hill sends extras to the set of "Another Harvest Moon", starring Ernest Borgnine, Doris Roberts, Anne Meara, Cybil Shepherd, Richard Schiff. L to R: staffer Michael Stewart, resident Margaret Rollins, Cybil Shepherd, and Kim Badman. Rollins was cast as one of a dozen extras from more than 1,000s to audition. Photo provided by Manor Care

(Center) Cheryl Jacques, first openly gay Massachusetts senator and recent Human Rights Campaign president, spearheaded defeat of the Federal Marriage Amendment. Hershey Entertainment & Resorts and Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce recently sponsored her appearance at Hershey Theatre in recognition of Pride Month. She is shown here with (left) Chamber president Russell A. Boggs and (right) vice president Judith L. Chambers. Jacques has appeared as a commentator CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, ABC's World News Tonight, The O'Reilly Factor, CrossFire, ABC's Good Morning America, Nightline, Fox News, CNN, and NPR.

Study Helps Cigarette Smokers Quit

UCSF researchers recently launched a study to further evaluate the use of the Internet as a method to provide assistance to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender smokers. In Pennsylvania, information is available for free at determinedtoquit.com or 1-800-784-8696.

Research indicates that the lgbt community has a higher rate of smoking than the general population. In some parts of the country, lgbt smoking rates can be as much as 50% higher than their heterosexual counterparts.

The study will evaluate lgbt-specific smoking treatment delivered by three methods: mail-based, Internet-based, and telephone-based. Participants will receive one of four treatments:

a) Mail-based Self-Help Treatment. Participants receive a manual to help them quit smoking. This manual provides information, recommendations, and tools to quit smoking. The manual includes information on smoking in the lgbt community, information on smoking and HIV/AIDS, and information on smoking-related issues specific to LGBT individuals.

b) Internet-based Smoking Treatment. This treatment includes the self-help manual plus access to a website that provides the information and tools from the self-help manual described above. Participants also have access to a message board that will allow them to gain support and advice from other LGBT smokers as well as professionals from UCSF

c) Phone Counseling Treatment. This treatment includes the self-help manual plus 6 counseling sessions conducted over the telephone. The counseling occurs during the first 3 months of participation and focuses on reviewing the information covered in the self help manual and providing support.

d) Internet plus Phone Counseling Treatment. This treatment includes the self-help manual, access to the internet-based treatment, and 6 telephone counseling sessions.

The study is a unique in offering participants cessation services that are highly convenient and private. To be eligible, individuals must be 18 years of age and identify as lgbt. Information: www.iquit.medschool.ucsf.edu.

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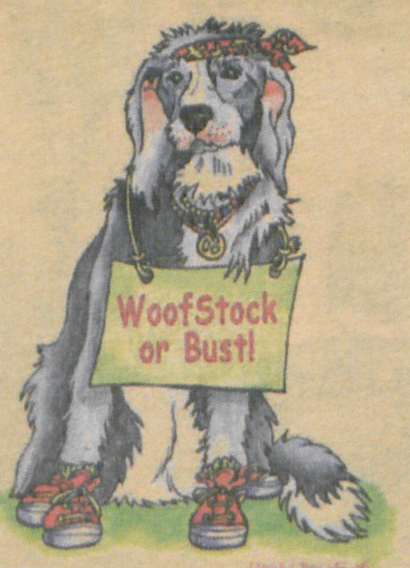

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Photos by Bruno Andrews

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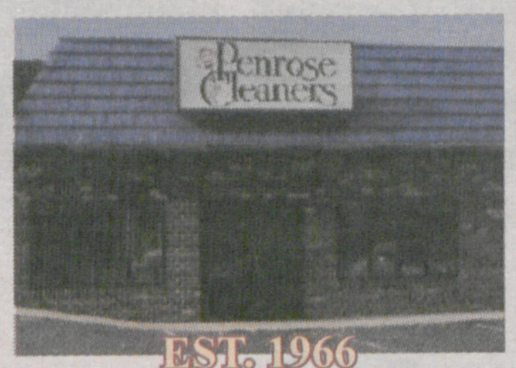

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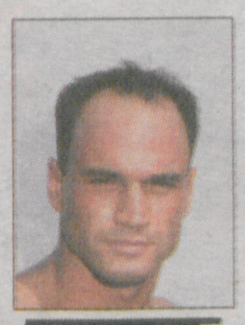

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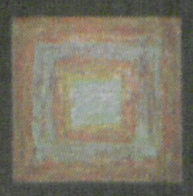

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Democrat Registration Edge Could Swing Dauphin County

By Jeff Welshen

For the first time since the Civil War, Democrats outnumber Republicans in Dauphin County. There are now 2,500 more Democrats than Republicans. This edge is expected to have an impact on both the presidential and local senate race between incumbent Jeff Piccola and challenger Judy Hirsh.

From now until election day, almost all of the attention will be focused on the race for the White House. This is understandable. Besides dealing with the faltering economy and the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the next President will also likely get to appoint at least two Supreme Court Justices.

John McCain has a carefully crafted image as a "maverick", but the truth is he represents George Bush's third term. Indeed, the Congressional Quarterly analyzed Senate votes on issues President Bush expressed "an explicit, stated opinion" and found that John McCain voted with President Bush 100 percent of the time in 2008 and 95 percent of the time in 2007.

John McCain would also extend President Bush's dismal record towards gays and lesbians. McCain opposes the inclusion of sexual orientation in the federal hate crimes law. He opposes the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. In fact, he was the deciding "No" vote that caused the measure to fail 49-50.) He opposes repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," calling gay Americans an "intolerable risk" to the military.

McCain also opposes adoption by same-sex parents as not "appropriate". He supports California's ballot initiative which would amend the state's constitution and outlaw same-sex marriages, and he also actively campaigned for an amendment to Arizona's constitution which would have banned both same-sex marriage and civil unions.

On these lgbt issues, and on almost every other issue from the economy to the environment, Barack Obama stands in stark contrast to George Bush and John McCain. Barack Obama represents the change we need and the change we deserve. Can we go from one of the worst presidents in U.S. history to one of the best? Yes we can!

But imagine waking up the day after the election, elated that the Bush nightmare was ending, only to find out that right here in Pennsylvania the anti-gay right had reclaimed control of the state legislature. They would likely try again to pass a "marriage protection amendment" taking away virtually all legal rights from same-sex couples. Unfortunately, our pro-gay Governor Ed Rendell can't veto a constitutional amendment. The only reason a similar effort failed this year is because Democrats control the state House and they refused to bring this discriminatory piece of legislation up for a vote. But the Democrats only have a one-seat majority, 102-101, so the election in every district is critical this year.

As for the state Senate, the Democrats have a good chance to chip into the Republicans' 29-21 seat majority. One of their best pick-up opportunities is right here in the 15th state Senate District (most of Dauphin county and part of York county). Career politician Jeff Piccola, who has spent 31 years in the legislature and is one of the prime sponsors of the so-called "marriage protection amendment", is running against attorney, small business owner, community leader and mother Judy Hirsh.

While Jeff Piccola is lining his pockets by raising money at events such as a private five course wine dinner with a minimum contribution of $500, Judy Hirsh is out canvassing the neighborhoods, not only listening to the voters, but also collecting canned goods for the food bank and care package supplies for the troops. Judy was unanimously endorsed by the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats and would truly be a breath of fresh air in the Capitol who would serve all of her constituents.

But can she pull an upset against Piccola? Absolutely. For the first time since the Civil War, Democrats outnumber Republicans in Dauphin County. We can win this election, and we can win Pennsylvania for Obama, but we need your help to make it happen. This is the year we need to send the message that we reject the politics of division and hate and that we want our representatives to focus on real issues such as affordable health care. Make sure you're registered at your current address. Make sure your friends and family are registered. Vote on November 4. Take your friends and family with you to the polls. If you want to get even more involved, join us at www.CapitalStonewall.org.

Will Millennials Determine Presidential Election?

By Frank Pizzoli

Nearly 43 million strong between age 18 and 29, Millennials, aka Gen. Y, are creating what Barak Obama has called a youthquake. They represent 20% of registered voters says the Census Bureau.

Hordes of twentysomethings in hoodies with lots of piercings and tattoos invaded Howard Dean's campaign with no real impact. All those FaceBook and MySpace profiles didn't seem to make a dent in politics as usual. This presidential round, the same cohort of ambitious voters has widened their scope: A full and thorough revamping of a federal system of government they see as broken.

Since Dean's Yell-one-for-Gipper days, youth turnout in voter registration and earlier involvements in campaigns has risen dramatically, according to the Student Public Interest Research Group. For example, John McCain and Hillary Clinton drew in most of the 25-to-29 year-olds. Obama snagged the most 18-to-24-year-olds.

Millennials care about health care (84%), economy (80%), education (78%), Iraq (71%), jobs (71%), terrorism (63%), environment (61%), taxes (59%, moral values (59%), Social Security (57%), budget deficit (54%), energy (48%), says Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Local Gen. Y's tell Central Voice about their concerns:

Rebekah Balmer, 19

"I want to see marriage, not civil unions, but as much as I want this, I feel as though it won't happen, and that is what saddens me the most," says Rebekah Balmer. On jobs, she says, "I may be 19 years young, but I am not blind to the ways of the world, and to see people loosing jobs because we have stubborn people in higher positions kills me. To know that our environment could be so much better if people just cared, which I feel they don't. I see many college students daily just throw their cigarette butts on the ground and not care at all. I just hope one day equality and peace can be obtained, and once they are, I hope everyone can learn to appreciate the life they live and their mother earth. Rebekah's ranks her issues: 1. marriage, 2. civil unions, 3. Iraq war, 4. job protection

Alex Reber, 22

"The most important issue to me in the upcoming election is advancing glbt civil rights. Though I have many other concerns, until the lgbt community has basic rights it will be my top issue," Reber says. He ranks his issues accordingly: 1. gay civil rights (including Employment Non-discrimination Act ENDA,) hate crimes protection, repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, marriage, 2. universal healthcare, 3. early childhood education with more funding for full day kinder garden and expanded Head Start, 4, tax code reform, 5. comprehensive energy reform.

Hope Harrison, 29

For Hope Harrison the most important issue in the presidential election is marriage, "as a slight second to changing the conservative, Republican rule we've had for eight years." Harrison has spent significant time in developing countries and she realizes that "the U. S. gay and lesbian community is much better off in many countries. Because she sees the U.S. as leading the way what we do here "pave the way" for other countries. Rather than fight against equal marriage rights, she'd rather we "focus on more important issues like our role in perpetuating poverty throughout much of this world." Harrison ranks her issues: 1. marriage, 2. job protection, 3. civil unions

Ian Forster, 21

"The environment is the most important issue to me this year because the environment poses the most urgent problems. If we destroy the planet, no other issue matters. We need an administration that gives the proper amount of attention to the environment."

On gas prices, Forster says "I personally don't mind the high gas prices because it makes people drive less which is good for the environment. But I do realize that high energy costs force all prices higher."

Forster ranks his issues as 1. environment; 2. economy (in one year I will graduate from college and be starting my career); 3. gay spousal rights (I don't care what it is called so much as I want legal protection); 4. Iraq; 5. Social Security.

> "I want to see marriage, not civil unions, but as much as I want this, I feel as though it won't happen, and that is what saddens me the most."
>
> *Rebekah Balmer, 19*

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Saturday - Dance Party with DJ Barry B 10pm and Rum & Cokes $3.00
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SPECIAL EVENTS
Friday Sept 5th - National Condom Day get your free condoms at our club.
Sunday Sept 14th - Miss Drag All-Star Harrisburg Pageant 9pm
Saturday Sept 27th - Blackout Glow Party 10pm
Sunday Sept 28th - Amateur Strip Night at Midnight win $50
Friday Oct 3rd & Saturday Oct 4th - Guest DJ Adam Bomb.
Saturday Oct 4th - Captain Morgan Pirate Party dress up to get in free and Captain & Coke $3.00.
Thursday Oct 16th & Friday Oct 17th Miss Drag All-Star Pennsylvania Pageant
Sunday Oct 26th - Amateur Strip Night at Midnight win $50
Friday Oct 31st & Saturday Nov 1st - Halloween Dance & Costume Contest Weekend

Whitaker CENTER For Science and the Arts

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts

Simone | Lisa Williams | Andrew Dice Clay | DeFace the Nation | Tea for Three | Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood | Tony Bennett

Simone & Her Big Band
Wednesday, September 17, 8pm
Big band jazz with the daughter of Nina Simone
Sponsored by Rhoads & Sinon LLP

Whitaker Center at the FORUM
An evening with Tony Bennett
Saturday, September 27, 8pm
The legendary vocalist

The Second City Comedy Troupe presenting *DeFace The Nation*
Thursday, October 2, 7:30pm
Political comedy

Ladybird, Pat & Betty: Tea for three
Saturday, October 4, 8pm
One woman show starring Elaine Bromka revealing intimate portraits of three different First Ladies.

105.7 the X Welcomes
Whitaker Center at the FORUM
Andrew Dice Clay
Friday, October 17, 8pm
Comedy

Whitaker Center at the FORUM
An evening with Lisa Williams
Wednesday, October 29, 7:30pm
Medium & clairvoyant

Whitaker Center at the FORUM
An evening with Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood
Saturday, November 1, 8pm
Improvisational comedy

Celebrating the Magnificent Men starring Class Act featuring Rita
Saturday, November 29, 8pm
with special guests Dave Bupp & Buddy King of the Magnificent Men
Sponsored by Cantone's Southern Italian Restaurant

Class Act featuring Rita

222 Market St, Harrisburg PA 17101 | Tickets: whitakercenter.org or 717/214-ARTS

Is My Pet Gay?

By Steve Dale
GoodNewsforPets.com

"I wish I could quit ewe" and "He's just not into ewe" are but two of the tasteless puns to make the rounds of headlines after a researcher at Oregon State University got some untoward PETA press. The scientist has been trying to figure out if there's any genetic difference between the 8% of rams that prefer rams and the balance of ewe-seeking rams.

It may sound silly but the researcher is ostensibly looking for ways to breed out the so-called "gay" rams. What self-respecting sheep rancher wants to pay for the maintenance of an intact animal who won't contribute his fair share to the genetic pool?

PETA and some gay rights activists claim that the research uses animals for needless, unethical research which could ultimately be used to help eliminate gays from the human population. It does sound like a touchy subject but I don't know about all that eugenics stuff…sounds a tad paranoid to me. But I don't know enough about the research to comment.

On the subject of gay pets, however, I'm often asked to render my "expert" opinion. I have no idea what makes me an authority on the subject in the minds of some of my clients but, no matter, I try to take this line of questioning in stride.

My gay clients are the ones most likely to comment or query on the subject and I guess that makes sense; it's not as if they consider the subject off limits. But I'm still never sure what to say when I'm asked if their pet is gay.

"I don't know" (said with a smile and an amused gleam in my eye) is my best reply. I mean, how am I supposed to know? I'm sure it's possible but what does it really matter? Is it a medical issue? Only if they choose not to mount their selected mate does it become an issue, in which case it doesn't really matter anyway; I just collect males by hand and artificially inseminate the females. Done. No gay or straight issue there.

The bottom line? I spend so much of my life trying to convince people to spay and neuter their pets that to venture into the realm of sexual orientation seems like an unreasonable and unnecessary leap into a fruitless and potentially harrowing oblivion.

OK, sure, pets engage in all kind of sexually evocative behavior (i.e., humping) with members of the same sex. Then again, they're also willing to hump their friends' heads, the household cat, stuffed hedgehogs and their parents' legs. Does this make them gay, perverse or deviant? No! (And I am quick to point out here that I am NOT equating "gay" to "perverse" or "deviant." I am simply offering the latter two as separate and distinct alternatives. You see why I reluctantly engage in conversation on this subject? It's fraught with a plethora of political pitfalls.)

As to the humping, a personal example: My own dog is a casual "play humper." I think it's actually quite cute (though she embarrasses others shamelessly). But how many times can I say it? This is not necessarily sexual behavior. Somehow, it's socially satisfying and, at least for my dog, doesn't seem sexual at all—but who knows what lurks in the canine mind? Maybe it is.

But as I asked before: What does it matter? And who cares anyway? Spay and neuter your dog (or don't—if you have a well-informed reason) and get over the issue of his or her sexuality. Unless you plan on breeding your dog, his or her sexual behavior should be entirely irrelevant. And you'll never fathom the mind of a dog anyway.

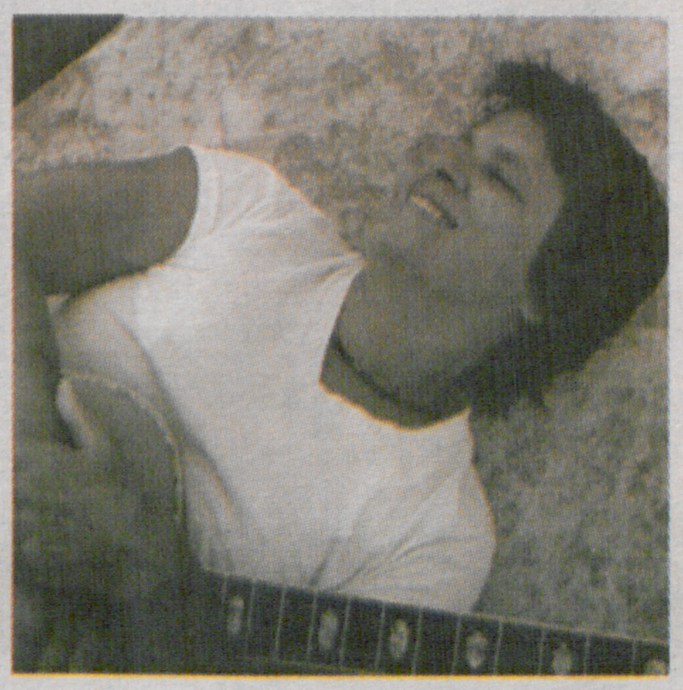
One final, emphatic point: There's something disrespectfully anthropomorphic about how we humanize our dogs' sexual and pseudo-sexual behavior. More specifically, it seems altogether wrong to apply our own convoluted and divisive sexual politics to animals, whether we're talking about pets or farm animals.

So leave the subject alone, or at least leave your vet out of it. Better yet, leave the work to the experts who already have their hands full trying to convince the general public that research into sheep sexuality might actually benefit the planet in some way. 'Nuff said.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY!

WITH THE LGBT CENTER COALITION & CENTRAL PA WOMYN'S CHORUS
OCTOBER 10TH & 11TH

The LGBT Center Coalition is hosting national speaker **Beth Stroud** on **Friday, October 10th at 7:00 pm** at a location to be announced. A $5 donation will be requested at the door. Beth was defrocked as associate pastor of her church in Philadelphia by the United Methodist Church in 2005 because of her committed lesbian relationship of many years. Go to www.centralpalgbtcenter.org for the venue for her appearance and to www.bethstroud.info to learn more. Come hear about the compelling church trial and appeal, her congregation's response and Beth's life now.



The Womyn's Chorus proudly presents **Tret Fure in Concert** on **Saturday, October 11th at 7:30 pm** at Unity Church, 927 Wertzville Road, Enola, PA 17025. Tret is an award-winning, independent singer-songwriter who has inspired audiences for decades. Tret formerly toured with Cris Williamson. Now she's on tour for her 12th solo disc. You don't have to travel to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival or Provincetown to hear this nationally renowned artist. This concert benefits the Chorus. Tickets are $18 in advance or $20 at the door. Call Cynthia at 717-564-0112 for advance tickets. Listen to Tret's music at www.tretfure.com.

LGBT center coalition

the Foundation for Enhancing Communities

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Alonzo Bodden, Jon Reep and John Heffron from *Last Comic Standing*
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The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion
Sun., Nov. 9 • 3:00pm

Dallas Brass *
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Holiday favorites & greatest hits
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Sun., Jan. 25 • 7:30pm
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Hotel California:
A Salute to The Eagles
Thur., Jan. 29 • 7:30pm
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Doug Benson
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Fri., Jan. 30 • 7:30pm

Sypro Gyra
Fri., Feb. 13 • 7:30pm
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The Tartan Terrors *
Sat., Feb. 14 • 7:30pm

DrumLine LIVE *
Wed., Feb. 25 • 7:30pm

Cirque Mechanics: Birdhouse Factory
Sat., Feb. 28 • 7:30pm
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The Fabulous Shpielkehs
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Altar Boyz
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Ruben Studdard starring in
Ain't Misbehavin' *
Thur., Apr. 30 • 7:30pm
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k.d. lang *
Fri., May 1 • 7:30pm
An XPN Welcomes event

100 Years of Hollywood
Fri., May 8 • 7:30pm
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The Rosies: 5th Annual High School Theater Awards
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* Ask about Pre-show dinner option

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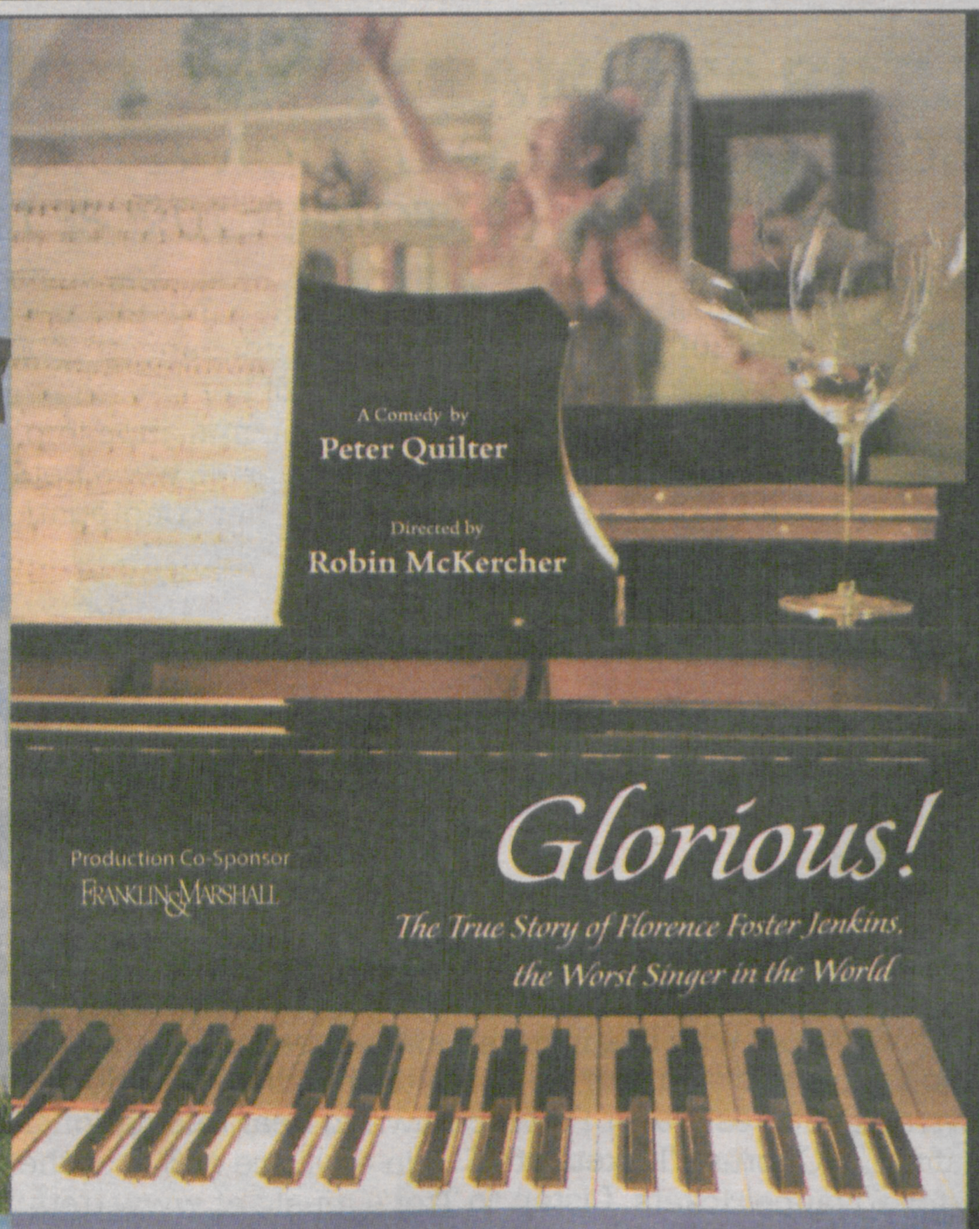

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Great URBAN Inns ON A BUDGET

Hotel rates have doubled and even tripled in a number of U.S. and Canadian cities over the past 15 years. It can be awfully challenging to find a decent yet affordable place to stay in a number of popular urban gay destinations. There is, however, one excellent way to save money while also enjoying a more personal experience than you're likely to at a large hotel: book a room at a gay-friendly bed-and-breakfast inn.

In many world-class cities, standard rooms at big hotels - especially those that cater to business travelers - easily command $250 or more per night. In these destinations (i.e., New York City, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago), it's fair to call a stylish inn with rates under $150 a bargain. Consider a charming, upscale property like Boston's gay-owned Clarendon Square Inn, a sophisticated retreat whose rooms have CD players, phones with automated voice mail, high-quality bath amenities, and in some cases a working fireplace. Rates here start at $139, which may not sound super low - but for comparable accommodations in one of Boston's top hotels you'd easily shell out $250 or even $350 per night.

If you're truly looking to spend as little money as possible, staying at a bed-and-breakfast in which some or all of the rooms share baths can save you a big bundle of cash. You'll rarely find a better bargain than Washington, D.C.'s Bed and Breakfast at the William-Lewis House, which comprises a pair of neighboring late 1800s town houses replete with Oriental rugs, period-style wallpapers, and fine antiques. There's also a lush and secluded deck and yard out back with a hot tub. Rates are a generous $69 to $159 nightly - the only catch is that all rooms share baths (but they're extremely clean and attractive bathrooms at that).

You'll find a similarly great deal at the gay-owned Willows Inn, a 1903 Edwardian house that's steps from the trendy restaurants and gay bars in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood. For as little as $95 nightly, you can book one of the warmly furnished rooms with Wi-Fi, TVs and VCRs, small refrigerators, private sinks, top-of-the-line bath amenities, and kimono robes. Rates also include a pleasant Continental breakfast (fresh fruit, yogurt, fresh-baked treats, and such). Just keep in mind that the 12 guest rooms share eight bathrooms. Considering the inn's loyal clientele, plenty of gay and lesbian travelers out there don't mind the slight inconvenience.

In fact, if you're willing to go the shared-bath route, you can find some outstanding deals, among them Boston's cheerfully decorated Oasis Guesthouse ($79 and up), which draws a mostly male clientele but also some women and straights. It's well situated, a short walk from the hip South End. Another good bet is the MacMaster House ($105 and up), on Portland, Oregon's swank King's Hill; it has both shared and private baths, and several rooms have fireplaces.

In general, you can often expect to save money by staying at a gay-exclusive property versus one that draws a mainstream crowd and can therefore market to a far larger pool of potential travelers. In Montreal, for instance, Lindsey's Bed and Breakfast ranks among the most beautifully furnished women's inns in Canada, and yet rates range from just $75 to $95 Canadian, which includes a superb, creatively prepared hot breakfast. The guy-oriented La Conciergerie is another Montreal favorite - it's just a short walk from gay nightlife and has well-maintained, antiques-filled rooms and a private hot tub. Here you'll pay about $99 to $119 Canadian for a double with a shared bath and just $159 for a suite with private bath.

Another good reason to choose a smaller inn over a large hotel is location - in quite a few cities it's difficult to find big hotels that are close to gay neighborhoods. In Houston, you can easily walk to the lesbian and gay bars in Montrose from the attractive and friendly Lovett Inn ($90 and up) - whereas from just about any full-scale hotel in the city, you'll need a car to reach the neighborhood. The City Inns group in Chicago has three small, recently renovated, gay-popular boutique properties all within an easy walk of the fabulous nightlife in the city's Boystown section, an area with few hotels. Rates at these three properties - the City Suites, the Majestic, and the Willows - start around $109 and include free Wi-Fi. Factor in all the money you save on cabs from downtown hotels, and this is a pretty nice deal.

The same goes for one of Manhattan's favorite gay/lesbian lodging options, the Chelsea Pines Inn, which occupies a classic 1850s town house right in the heart of the city's gay epicenter. Rooms with semiprivate bath (sink and shower are in your room but the toilet is shared with several other rooms on same floor) start at $140, while private baths begin at $175 (but the Pines frequently offers specials with even lower rates). This is truly a steal by New York City standards. And in Seattle, you'll not find a more ideally located property than the Gaslight Inn ($88 and up), a lovingly tended turn-of-the-century house in the ultra-hip Capitol Hill neighborhood. There's a large heated pool outside, along with space for sunning.

Of course, price aside, a perfectly good reason to consider a smaller inn or bed-and-breakfast is that, at least in some cities, these smaller properties offer the most charm. This is definitely the case in Tucson, Arizona, where most of the city's inns occupy historic adobe or Craftsman-style houses. The gay-owned Catalina Park Inn is set in a 1927 Neoclassical Revival inn that blends Californian and Southwestern styles to create a sophisticated but unpretentious ambience. With rates beginning at $136 in high season and just $106 in the spring and fall (it's closed in the summer), the Catalina makes for an ideal retreat.

Atlanta's Gaslight Inn (no relation to the same-named Seattle property), with rates beginning at $115, is one of that city's most stylish lodging options. The gay-owned, Craftsman-style B&B in the cosmopolitan Virginia-Highland neighborhood exudes romance, with its plush canopy beds and, in some cases, whirlpool tubs and wood-burning fireplaces. Not far from Denver's leafy Cheesman Park, the Capitol Hill Mansion (from $114) is a stately Queen Anne Victorian on an attractive residential street. Owners

Jay Hadley and Carl Schmidt serve a lavish full breakfast each morning as well as refreshments and snacks in the afternoon; guests enjoy such pleasing amenities as free Wi-Fi and fresh flowers in every room, and gas fireplaces, whirlpool tubs, and private balconies in the top units.

New Orleans is perhaps the best example of a city that's simply ideal if you love staying in smaller, historic properties. Right in the heart of the French Quarter, a stone's throw from the city's hottest gay bars, you can find rooms beginning at just $95 at the Bon Maison Guest House, an 1830s red-stucco town house that feels

Continued on page 24>

436 Marsh Run Road, New Cumberland

Truly lavish home situated on 23.6 peaceful acres, with a view of the Susquehanna River. This all brick estate features an open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen with breakfast area, four bedrooms including an incredible master suite, two and a half baths, formal dining room, a sound proof media room, exquisite in-ground pool and cabana, three-car garage and too many custom features to mention. Offered at $799,900.

For additional information please contact Donna Fleetwood of Re/Max 1st Advantage at (717) 591-5555 or (717) 591-7790.

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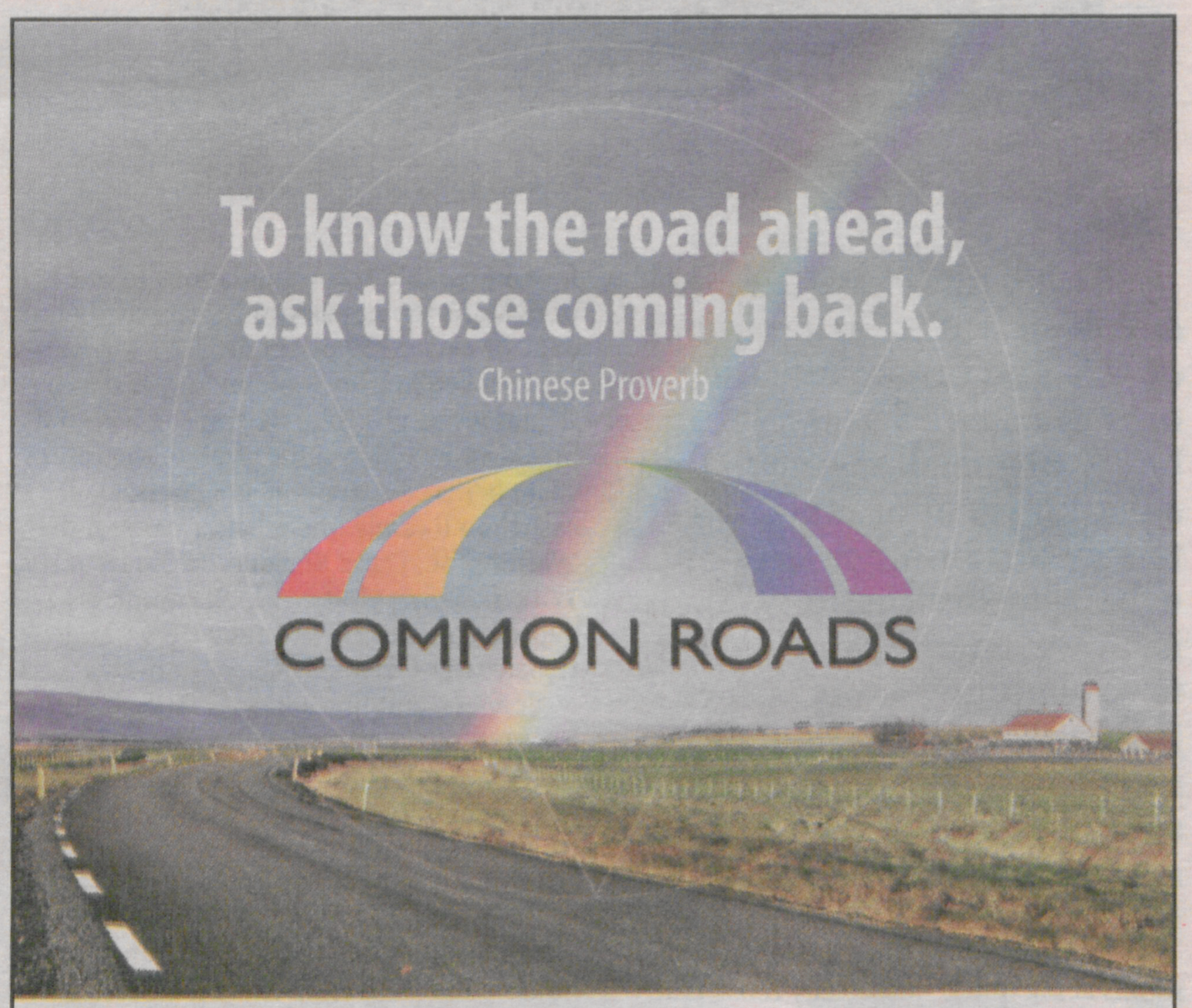

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Lancaster, PA 17603
717.393.1733

www.commonroads.org
www.myspace.com/commonroads
info@commonroads.org

Gay Pride Parade planners organized 44 units into this year's event. From left, co-chairs Mark Smith and Donald Anklam, information and registration chair Rennee Smith, and parade launch caption Dale Schuer.

Photo by Frank Pizzoli

US House Says "Don't Ask" Anymore

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for holding the first hearing since 1993 on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which prohibits lesbian, gay and bisexual people from serving openly in the military.

In addition to submitting written testimony, the Action Fund worked closely with Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and other colleague organizations to prepare witnesses and members of the committee for the hearing. Statement by Rea Carey, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund

"We urge the repeal of the discriminatory 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that has resulted in the expulsion of thousands of loyal American women and men from the U.S. Armed Forces. Since 1993, lesbian, gay and bisexual service members have steadfastly pledged to defend our Constitution even while forced into silence about who they are and whom they love. That they are ejected from the military when their sexual orientation is discovered is a disservice to them and their families and a disgrace to our country. This categorical rejection of our country's brave and trustworthy Americans and the continued squandering of their contributions must end."

social and recreational organizations:

Gay & Lesbian Artisan Pride

Discuss topics important to today's gay artist, Mentoring and nuturing growth of "Up Coming" and amateur artists, Promote art awareness within our own community, Creating and Coordinating group shows. Please email or call with interest/Questions/Comments.
Phone: (717)732-0233, Contact: Michael Reed, Email: mreeddesigns@yahoo.com

Harrisburg Gay Men's & Women's Volleyball

3rd and Bridge St. New Cumberland
Phone: 717.233.3172, Contact: Jim
Hours: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland. Cost: $2.50

Harrisburg Ladies Night Out

PO Box 266, Mechanicsburg
Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL

HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women.
Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com , www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl
Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region

Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles
3623 Green Street, Harrisburg
Phone: 717.238.9766 , Contact: John Ball
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Rainbow Pride Rural Project

This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg.
2973 Jefferson St., Harrisburg
Phone: 717-236-7387, Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality

Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.
Shippensburg University Cumberland Union Bldg
Box 89, Shippensburg
Phone: 717-477-1616, Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Email: susale@gmail.com , Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm

Susquehanna Club

Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org , Website: www.susq.org

Susquehanna Valley Bears

PO Box 61478 Harrisburg, PA
Contact: John Bowermaster
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: secretarysvbears@yahoo.com or info@svbears.com , Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc

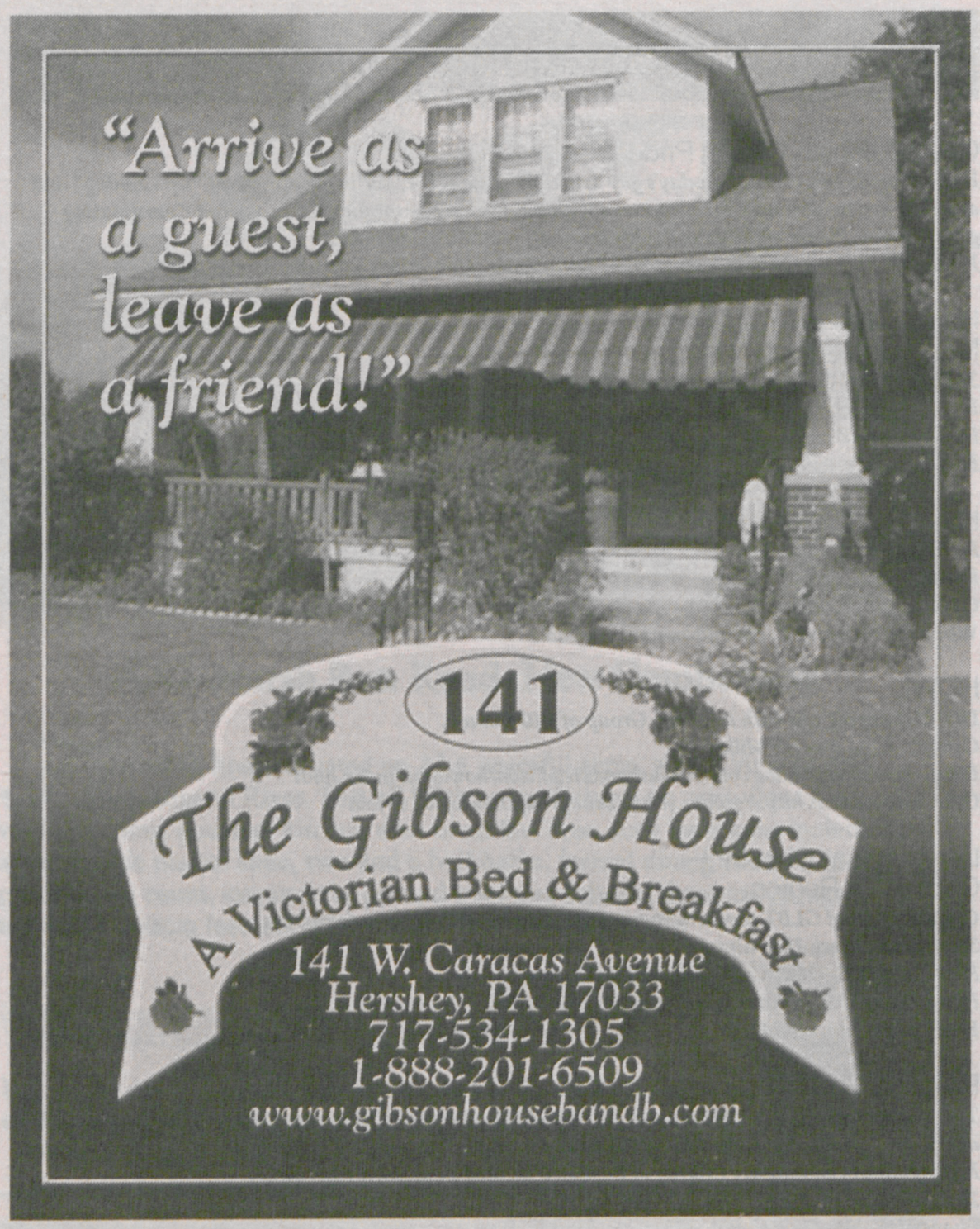
The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle.
Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm
PO Box 401, Harrisburg
Phone: 717-232-3785, Contact: Steven James
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org , Website: www.pennsmen.org

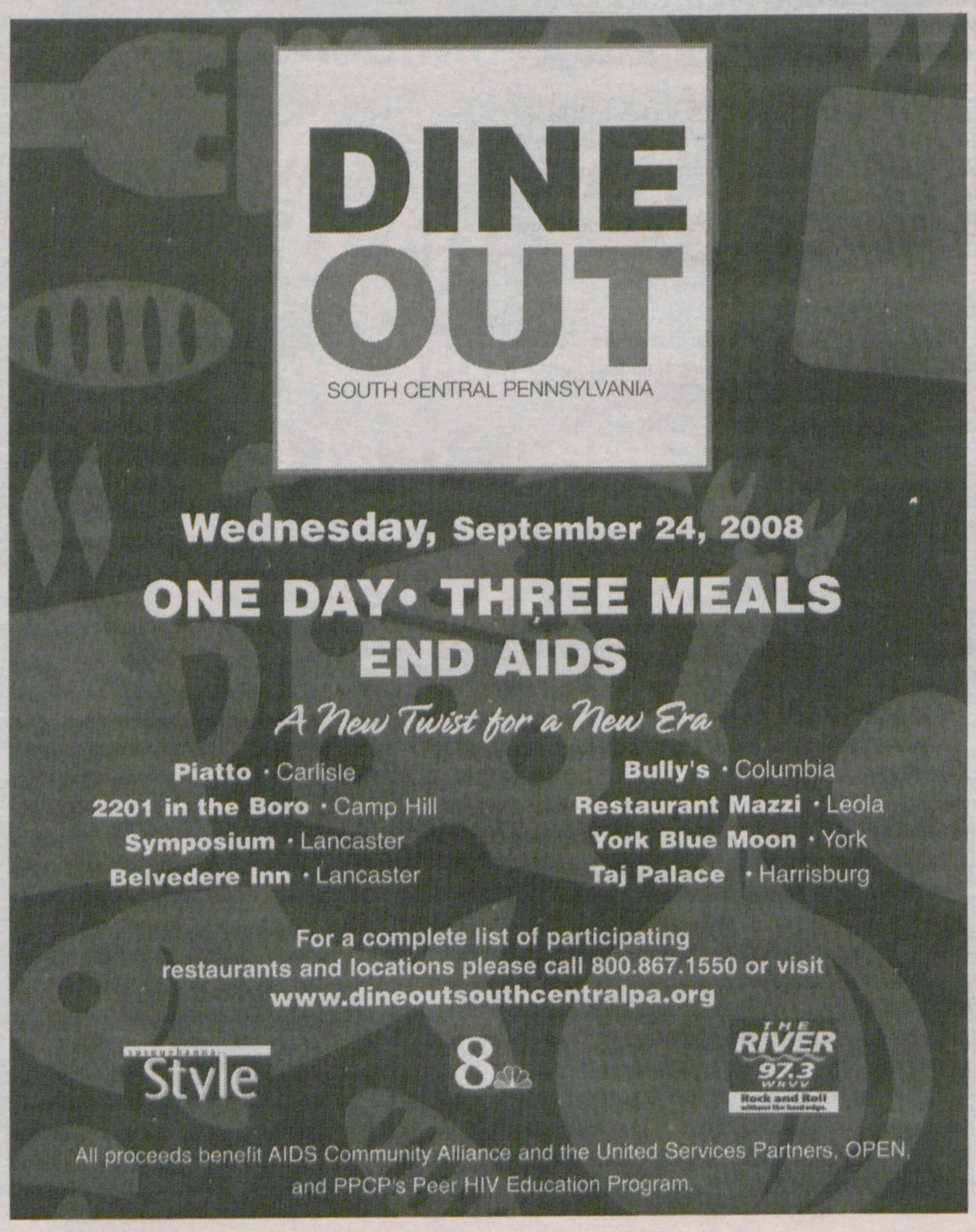
The Rainbow Bowling League

The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444, Contact: Mark or Robert
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

Women's Circle

PO Box 99
Highspire, PA 17034
womenscircle@gmail.com

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Belvedere Inn · Lancaster
Bully's · Columbia
Restaurant Mazzi · Leola
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Great Urban Inns *cont'd from page 21*

completely cloistered once you get past the entrance and sneak a peak of the delightful courtyard. And over in the city's up-and-coming Mid-City neighborhood - close to City Park and a number of great restaurants - you can snag a room for as little as $99 in summer and $135 during busy times at the impeccably restored 1896 O'Malley House. Rooms at this gay-owned inn are spacious and filled with stunning antiques. You won't find accommodations this beautiful at any big hotel in New Orleans, no matter what you're willing to pay.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

The Little Black Book:

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Catalina Park Inn (Tucson, AZ, 520-792-4541 or 800-792-4885, www.catalinaparkinn.com)
Chelsea Pines Inn (New York, NY, 212-929-1023 or 888-546-2700, www.chelseapinesinn.com)
City Suites (Chicago, IL, 773-404-3400 or 800-248-9108, www.cityinns.com/citysuites)
Clarendon Square Inn (Boston, MA, 617-536-2229, www.clarendonsquare.com)
1896 O'Malley House (New Orleans, LA, 504-488-5896 or 866-226-1896, www.1896omalleyhouse.com)
Gaslight Inn (Atlanta, GA, 404-875-1001, www.gaslightinn.com)
Gaslight Inn (Seattle, WA, 206-325-3654, www.gaslight-inn.com)
La Conciergerie (Montreal, Quebec, 514-289-9297, www.laconciergerie.ca)
Lindsey's Bed and Breakfast for Women (Montreal, Quebec, 514-843-4869 or 888-655-8655, www.lindseys.ca)
Lovett Inn (Houston, TX, 713-522-5224 or 800-779-5224, www.lovettinn.com)
Majestic Hotel (Chicago, IL, 773-404-3499 or 800-727-5108, www.cityinns.com/majestic)
MacMaster House (Portland, OR, 503-223-7362 or 800-774-9523, www.macmaster.com)
Oasis Guesthouse (Boston, MA, 617-267-2262 or 800-230-0105, www.oasisgh.com)
Willows Hotel (Chicago, IL, 773-528-8400 or 800-787-3108, www.cityinns.com/willows)
Willows Inn (San Francisco, CA, 415-431-4770 or 800-431-0277, www.willowssf.com).

Storm cont'd from page 5

happy to publish her second book, as well.

"I always knew (writing) would be part of my life," said Storm. "Writing is definitely how I process."

Storm claimed she uses a number of other "healthy tools" to help her deal with her past and present problems. She runs, does yoga, or talks to people. Storm is herself an example of someone who never dealt with her problems and now does so in positive ways. She wants to help others improve and reclaim their lives as she did.

Amazingly, Storm claims, "I don't regret anything in my life."

"I ran from everything before." Now, she says, there's nothing she can't face.

Learn more about Jennifer Storm at her website, www.jenniferstorm.com

Warhol Expert to Speak at Art Association

Dr. Debra Miller

Thanks to a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, occasional Central Voice writer and Warhol expert Debra Miller will present a lecture on "Andy Warhol: The Artist and His Critics" on Sept. 14, 1- 3 p.m. in the main gallery of the Art Association of Harrisburg, 21 N. Front St.

Dr. Miller writes, "Twenty years after his death, Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol still is largely misunderstood by the general public and by arts and humanities scholars." Dr. Miller, an insider of the Warhol circle and a close friend of the family, will consider the artist's life and art within the context of art history and criticism. Miller will show that, while his Pop subjects, dramatic persona and renowned Factory revolutionized the art world in the 1960's, many of his themes and techniques represent modernized versions of well-established artistic traditions. She will illustrate that many of the criticisms of Warhol's work by contemporary writers are almost verbatim to those leveled in the past against such now-revered Old Masters as Rembrandt and Caravaggio.

Central Voice writer Debra Miller, who received her Ph.D. in art history from the University of Delaware with specializations in Northern and Italian Baroque and Renaissance , and American art, has taught extensively. Miller's teaching venues have been the University of Delaware, Bryn Mawr College, Rutgers University, and presently, Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ, and Hussian School of Art, Philadelphia. In addition to her classes in European and American Art, Professor Miller also offers topics in Cross-Cultural Art History. She has been named a Commonwealth Speaker for the PA Humanities Council for 2008-2009.

The former Director of Revsin Gallery, Philadelphia, Dr. Miller now serves as President of the Board of Directors of DaVinci Art Alliance in South Philadelphia while maintaining an active schedule of curating and jurying exhibitions there and at venues worldwide. Her many publications include the fully-illustrated catalogue "Artists of the Warhol Circle Then and Now," and the first monograph on Factory photographer Billy Name. She covers the Philadelphia art scene for the bi-monthly arts newspaper "Inferno" in Millville, NJ, and serves on the fundraising committee for Lantern Theatre Company, Philadelphia.

For more information on the Warhol lecture at the Art Association of Harrisburg, call 717-236-1432, or visit the website at www.artassocofhbg.com.

Would Jesus Discriminate? campaign organizers, center front, Alberta Hamm; left to right, Carla Castle, Rosemary Mirocco, and Rev. Eva O'Diam, pastor of MCC of the Spirit. This campaign is designed to lead a wider community discussion on the religious roots of discrimination specifically in the glbt community. Contact the church at 236-7387 if you would like to be involved.

Photo by Frank Pizzoli

Robert Stadnycki Receives Art Award

Robert Stadnycki embraces one of his own creations.

Once called Harrisburg's Andy Warhol, Robert Stadnycki is this year's recipient of the "Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts in the Capital Region." There are two awards given annually, one to an individual and one to an organization, company or group. The second award recipient is the Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA). Stadnycki is executive director of the Greater Harrisburg Arts Council and local artist.

The award will be presented Sept. 28 by the Whitaker Center.

Stadnycki has long been a force in the national and regional art scene. In 1981, he was accepted into the prestigious Baltimore American Craft Council's Winter Market and Rosen Buyer's Market with his line of contemporary weavings which laid the groundwork for future activities. He added gift shows in New York, Atlanta, Dallas and Los Angeles to his roster. Here he made his contacts which led to representation in over 300 galleries, catalogs, museum shops and with interior designers - from specialty galleries to Bloomingdales and Macy's Department Store. In 1993 a new line of faux finish gold gilded sculptural boxes and furniture was introduced.

For many years beginning in 1978, he was a volunteer at the Greater Harrisburg Arts Council. Then in 1994 he was asked to be on an advisory committee to help the struggling Arts Council which was both financially and artistically challenged. In 1995 Stadnycki was appointed the position of executive director to run the Memorial Day Arts Festival and community projects. The festival will celebrate its 42nd year in 2009.

With partnership with the City of Harrisburg, Mayor Stephen R Reed, GHAC Board President Tina Manoogian King, & the GHAC Board of Directors-Kipona Artfest was created. The Greater Harrisburg Art Council also partners with the State Museum of Pennsylvania with the annual "Art of the State : PA" along with Music in the Schools Program and Capitol Kickline and Dance programs in conjunction with National Dance week. Stadnycki's claim to fame with the Arts Council is that it does not receive a single federal, state or city dollar to bring the arts to the region.

Stadnycki had the honor of being the creative director for of the opening of the Whitaker Center in 1999 under the direction of dear friend Lois Grass and was the creator of the Strawberry Ball. For the past several years he has been the gala and set designer for the Governor's Awards for the Arts at different locations across the State of Pennsylvania. Robert has won numerous awards for his exhibits at arts festivals and has been a juror for many exhibitions including the #1 Art Fair in the country, Cherry Creek Arts Festival in Denver Colorado.

His studio, home and gardens are in Colonial Park and have been featured on several shows on HGTV over the past two years. Robert loves his garden, friends and being a driving force of the art scene in the city of Harrisburg. Stadnycki earned a B.A. at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, attended Bucknell University's Governor School for the Arts (1973).

Party Animal

cont'd from page 5

teen homelessness and workplace discrimination, the two issues he sees as most pressing in today's gay rights movement.

"Teens and young people have few resources to utilize when it comes to coming out and mentoring. I feel that programs should be established and appropriately funded for teens who may be questioning or having personal problems."

As his sexual orientation has helped to define his politics, Campbell's spiritual beliefs have helped to define him. In his senior year in high school, he wrote a paper on homosexuality and the Bible.

"It expanded my thinking on what the Bible says about homosexuality and what it doesn't say. It also helped me to establish and reflect about my own beliefs about religion and its views," he said.

Campbell, who flirted with the notion of going to seminary and was offered a scholarship to attend Westminster Seminary outside of Pittsburgh, is a proud and active member of Market Square Presbyterian Church, well known in the community for its gay-friendly stance.

"That's where a lot of my values come from," he said.

Although his laser-like focus on a political career has only sharpened since 7th grade, Campbell is a little more restrained these days when expressing his dreams.

"My ultimate goal right now is to be a U.S. senator from Pennsylvania," Campbell said, adding that he intends to start with a run for Harrisburg City Council in two years. When asked if he still wants to be president, Campbell smiled as his face colored. "Maybe," he said.

"When he told me he wanted to be president," Cline said, "I was very supportive … and I told him, 'Just remember, you're never too old for me to come down to the White House and kick your butt.'"

What Fuels Midtown Harrisburg's Crime?

cont'd from page 1

now that it's happening in Midtown," he said. Midtown is defined as Forster to Maclay Streets, encompassing Front to 7th Sts.

"The dirty secret is that about half the streets in Midtown's boundaries are 'no man's land,'" said one long-time resident also afraid to use her name. "It's not all chi chi rehab or newly built homes. It's as much unsuitable as it is newly-built or restored and quaint."

Despite bleak patches, Midtown has seen its share of investment.

"Olde Uptown," between N. 2nd and N. 3rd Sts. and Maclay and Muench Sts., is home to 101 new and restored homes representing a $17 million investment. Other expansions, like Marketplace Townhomes, Capitol Heights, Townes at Governor's Square involve about 650 new or restored residential units.

Is Midtown investment forcing displacement and backlash?

"It's all about drugs and lack of education," says Harrisburg attorney Derek Cordier, a court-appointed surrogate for about 75 Dauphin County juveniles.

"If the parents use drugs, the kids have no role models. Heroin is rampant in the schools in this area," he says. Cordier says kids need to realize the importance of schooling in getting a good job. "They must be taught to stay off drugs and not to use alcohol until they are of age, which is all about role models," he says. Cooper, who never drank or carried a gun, was seen as a good role model for his and other children.

New vs. Old?

Cities Harrisburg's size are attractive to newcomers, especially those avoiding large metro sprawls ringed with highways and impersonal suburbs. After decades of flight followed by gentrification, many urban neighborhoods evolve into mixtures of ambitious new arrivals living next to people who may feel left out.

"Midtown is perfect for its access to the river and downtown," says Elizabeth "Bebe" Mullaugh, originally from Pittsburgh and now an attorney with McNees Wallace & Nurick. She moved here in 1995.

"I had two small dogs and I felt safe walking them around the neighborhood at night. I have always felt reasonably safe, but in recent years I have been more wary of being out alone at night."

Several crimes very close to her house made Mullaugh more cautious. She surmises last summer's incidents were crimes of opportunity. "City teens and young adults have little to do in the summer. There aren't many employment opportunities and lots of kids don't have the educational preparation to be employed," she says.

"The gang beatings seem like power plays where an otherwise powerless kid becomes part of a tough crowd that rules the street," Mullaugh says. "I don't know if it's resentment, per se, but I think this type of crime stems from lack of other, more productive opportunities. But, kids commit crimes in the suburbs, too!" she points out.

Not all arrested youths in last summer's crime spree live city side, a factor fueling the theory that the city is perceived by surrounding residents as a place to act out. Such was the case about 20 years ago when police records documenting a spike in juvenile crime revealed that most offenders in that spree where not city residents.

"Midtown Action Council/Midtown Watch has been diligent in communicating with residents and police," Mullaugh says. She urges political leaders to restore funding cut since 2000 for community policing, a step that reduced crime the previous decade.

> "I have always felt reasonably safe, but in recent years I have been more wary of being out alone at night."
> - Bebe Mullaugh

Senior pastor at Harrisburg's Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, Rev. Eva O'Diam has lived in two Midtown neighborhoods after moving here in 1991 from Baltimore to serve the church.

Her church's office was located in the 1900 block of Green St. while she lived at Herr and Penn Sts. Then the office moved to the 1800 block of Green Street and O'Diam lived at Kelker and Green Sts. "I grew to love those streets and my neighbors. We looked out for one other," she says.

O'Diam's apartment was burgled. "They stole a VCR and little things. I never lost any sleep over it. We all knew who was responsible, but there was no proof." O'Diam's neighbor boarded up her broken window and put in a security light.

O'Diam says, "There was a house in the neighborhood known for drugs but we felt they knew people in the right places, so nothing ever happened." When an officer took her report and asked O'Daim who she thought the burglars might be, "I told him that he already knew, we all did, but nothing would happen about it. He said nothing." Today, she would be more cautious but it wouldn't keep her from visiting Midtown.

O'Diam remembers working with a group years back trying to stop Vartan Enterprises from buying up the neighborhood for redevelopment. Neighbors feared older people would be pushed out of their homes and their sense of community splintered.

"I certainly think that has happened to some extent. A shredded sense of community allows people to come in and attack for whatever reason," O'Diam says. Without knowing the attackers she's hard pressed to comment on root causes. "I think the 'lack' of community, and possibly the 'perceived privilege' of newcomers could be at the root."

Ask a Blogger

Popular blogger Jersey Mike (jerseymike.org), Mike Van Jura owns a rental property at Penn and Muench Sts. "I've owned and lived in Midtown for just about four years now," he says. Originally from North Jersey, Van Jura came here via Toronto.

"Out of all possible central Pennsylvania locations, Harrisburg has the most culture, the kindest people and the most opportunity for a guy like me," he says. Although he admits when he first arrived here, "I absolutely hated it!"

Van Jura feels safe walking around midtown during the day but "at night I rarely walk anymore." And when he does, he's constantly looking over his shoulder and aware of what's going on around him.

Van Jura doesn't isolate a single cause for Midtown's problems. "There's layers to this. There's definitely a nationwide economic downslide that causes more desperate people to make more desperate decisions," he posits.

Weak family units also contribute. "Even though my family wasn't perfect, there was still the fear-of-God put into me by my folks that if I did anything remotely stupid (stealing, fighting, name calling) I'd get a swift kick in the ass," Van Jura says. Without strong family units kids "don't have a mother cleaning the kitchen and saying things like 'You wait until your father gets home!' to scare a kid into behaving.

The "pushed out" explanation doesn't cut it for Van Jura. "If being pushed out was the root cause, the crime scene would be much worse."

Van Jura recommends that Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed release all crime data "so citizens may analyze and interpret the information to find the 'real' root causes of these crimes. Without the mayor's office providing regular and complete information to crime watch groups, we're fighting blind."

"Ask any uniformed police officer and they'll all tell you the same thing. They're over-worked and under staffed," Van Jura says. He acknowledges officers respond to calls and complaints, "but there's not much else they can do. No follow up. No investigations. This is why the same criminals keep getting away with the same crimes, he claims."

Van Jura's next recommendation will make some bristle. "Parents could be held more accountable for the crimes of their children. If we can't release the names of juveniles, can we release the names of the parents?"

Are the numerous Midtown groups claiming a piece of the action effective?

Van Jura senses the plethora of crime-watch groups and neighborhood associations are ineffective because they are not united. "I'm online nearly 10 hours daily and I rarely see information being distributed. Crime watch groups and neighborhood associations should not be exclusive clubs. There is much more information that can be shared amongst the many groups. Neighborhood watches need improvement."

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